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1

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Thankyou
Wonder Woman!

Christian Journalists Meet at Indore



Indore: "Indian Constitution is the backbone of Indian democracy and it is under attack today", said Dr. Ram Puniyani, author and writer and the keynote speaker at the 23rd National Convention of Christian Journalists organised by the Indian Catholic Press Association (ICPA) and held at the Universal Solidarity Movement (USM) of Value Education for Peace, here on March 9. He was speaking on the theme "Print Media and Indian Democracy."

The politics being done today in the name of Hinduism has nothing to do with Hinduism, he said and added today religion is being used to attack democracy.

Bishop Salvadore Lobo, the bishop of Baruiপুর diocese and chairman of the CBCI Office for Social Communications, in his inaugural address recalled the appeal made in the statement of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India meeting held recently in Bangalore calling upon the members of the Church "to make the Constitution of India more widely known in all sectors of Church and society." He also said that we need a journalism that stands for peace, trust, harmony being the voice of the voiceless.

ICPA President Fr Alfonso Elengikal Welcomed the dignitaries and members at the inaugural session and the

secretary Jose Vincent proposed a vote of thanks.

At the first session moderated by ICPA Vice-president Ignatius Gonsalves in the morning, prominent journalist A J Philip from Delhi said : "Even though social media is getting prominence today, the print media is playing a crucial role in the life of the people of India." Today democracy has become the autocracy of the majority. The role of the media is to bring out truth, he said.

Editor of Indian Currents, Delhi, Dr. Suresh Mathew contented that the Media in India today are controlled by the government through harassment and threats. The purpose of the media is to communicate to the rulers the aspirations and agonies of the ruled, he said.

At an afternoon session moderated by Dr Jacob Kani, Editor of Youth Action, Indore, Senior journalist Shraavan Garg lamented that the print media is not informing the people what is happening in the society. According to his analysis, after the September 11 terrorist attack in the USA, a lot of things are happening all over the world in the name of National security. In the name of protecting citizens the rights of the citizens are being taken away.

Director of USM, Fr. Varghese Alengaden said both democracy and print media have become hallow. Today the

whole lot of MLAs and even the governments are purchased. Media people are also purchased because of the degeneration of values. Journalists have to become prophets or conscience of the society, he said.

Indian Currents received ICPA's prestigious annual "Louis Careno Award for Excellence in journalism" at a colourful function in the evening. The award was given to Indian Currents for its bold stand against communalism and fundamentalism and was received by its Editor, Dr Suresh Mathew.

Dr Fr M D Thomas from Delhi received the Swami Devanand Chakungal Award for Best Hindi writer for his exceptional contribution to Hindi Christian literature. Chinmay Mishra from Indore, a writer, thinker and social activist was also honoured by ICPA for his contribution to the promotion of art and literature.

ICPA Vice-president Ignatius Gonsalves and senior members Fr Varghese Paul and Babychen Aerthayil were honoured for their achievements during the year.

The award function was presided over by Bishop Salvadore Lobo. Renowned painter, writer and film Director Prabhu Joshi was the Chief Guest.

—Jose Vincent, Secretary, ICPA

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'Thought for the week'

Attachment to status, power, wealth or comforts gives rise to ego. It is ego that separates man from God.

Contents

- pg. 3 - Thankyou wonder woman!
- pg. 5 - Voice of the People
- pg. 6 - Syria's Bloody War
- pg. 8 - You the citizens decide
- pg. 10 - Never ending temptations
- pg. 11 - Views on News
- pg. 12 - The wisdom of the crowd
- pg. 14 - Smartphones - a good servant or a bad master?
- pg. 16 - Newspaper reporting isn't fun!
- pg. 17 - Inspiration!
- pg 19 - Matrimonials
- pg 23 - Evangelize the Gospel and defend the faith

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Cover : Thankyou wonder woman!:

(Article on pg.3)

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THANKYOU WONDER WOMAN!

By . Cedric Prakash SJ

As 8 March approaches once again, I am simply overwhelmed remembering the many women in my life! I stop and wonder whether it is a mere 'cosmetic' exercise, a kind of 'tokenism' just because one is on the eve of yet another 'international day'; or is there something more? And I say to myself "yes! there is more!": celebrating the women who have been part of my life, thanking them for shaping me, for helping me to grow; asking their forgiveness for oftentimes my patriarchal, chauvinistic attitudes and for not having done enough to ensure greater equity and dignity for them; finally, to request them to continue to accompany me in this journey of life.

The first woman that comes to my heart and mind is naturally my own mother. She nurtured me in her womb for nine months, as all mothers do. She gave birth to me, cared for me, taught me the meaning and values of life, in a way only mothers can do. My mother was always a teacher; in fact an educator par excellence. Though she is no more, she will undoubtedly, always be part of my life

Then there are my two sisters, both elder to me: they are the ones who held my hands when I learnt to walk; sat by my side when I tried to escape my studies; protected and reprimanded me, the times I was up to mischief; nevertheless have loved me and cared for me all these years.

My maternal grandmother (nana) and the two sisters of my mother (who were both religious nuns) were a world to me (one is still living –she is a Wonder Woman). Though miles separated us, I always looked forward to receiving their letters filled with plenty of advice and love; and of course writing to them! Summer holidays was something I eagerly look forward to- when I used to be thoroughly spoilt by a 'doting' grandmother; other grandaunts, aunts (including my favourite one!)and little cousin 'sisters' were of course ever present with their caring, challenging, cajoling, complaining and all

We had some special women who were our neighbours - their faces and names come back to me. All of them with due respect were an 'Aunty' to me;

(Contd.. on p. 4)

(Contd.. from p. 3)

it could not be otherwise. Wonderful women who also felt duty-bound 'to complain' to my mother that they saw me jumping on rooftops trying to catch a fallen kite or about some other prank! These good souls at the same time would most generously give me a share from the goodies they made

Women have been my teachers in school, in University, in the Seminary. They were all great women (we have a school alumni 'WhatsApp' group and we often remember our extraordinary schoolteachers); some of my teachers were simply amazing. They gave of their best and made sure that we were educated in the complete sense of the word.

During my school and college days, I have had great women friends. Am still in touch with some of them. A few of them have done exceedingly well in life; some are grandmothers; and of course, all are in the 'retirement' or 'semi-retirement' – waiting for the 'twilight years'. These friends have been so much part of my growth- just being there: warm, helpful, caring, thoughtful. We hardly see each other but the bonds have never been broken all these years.

In my religious and professional life, many women have enriched me. The deeply spiritual ones; the simple, unassuming ones; the kind, generous ones. When I think of them at this moment, face after face like a film reels through my mind; so many of them. Some simply outstanding ones, human rights defenders - who have taken courageous stands in the face of all odds; brave women who have stood up against the most powerful on behalf of the victims, vulnerable and poor. Women whose social activism and commitment to a cause, has made this world a better place. Women who have given and not counted the cost.

Over the years, I have been touched by several women who live in remote villages, in the filth and squalor of dehumanizing slums; by women who

are refugees or have been forcibly displaced; by women who have been exploited and harassed, denigrated and excluded - just because they are women! Some of them struggle all the time to make both ends meet- with little or no choices in life. Many of them are women of strength, women of substance; their lives are full of hope, optimism and resilience. They are the anonymous women and unknowingly they have shaped my life too.

For a little over two years now, I have been engaged with the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) based in Beirut; we work in five countries of the MENA Region. Many of the refugees and the displaced we work with are women. The amazing dimension of our work is that a very large percentage of our staff both in the countries we work in and in the Regional office are women (*hopefully tomorrow I will write another article about this*). This stint in JRS has given me the unique opportunity of being in the midst of some wonderful women: their capacity to reach out, their sensitivity to others, their ability to work under pressure; their professionalism; their commitment to service. There is much I have learnt from them and I am still learning.

There have been and there are many other women in my life. I had not planned that these random thoughts would enter the realm of 'categories'; they happened rather naturally! So obviously unintentionally, I would have left out several other 'groups'. In my work, I have been helped and supported by many women. Today too, I am in touch and encounter wonderful women all the time!

Tonight I want to say a big **THANKYOU** to every woman in my life - those who have died, those who I am not in touch with, those who I have hurt, those who are far away, those who are close to me, and to every one of YOU (hopefully this will reach some of you)!

THANKYOU for helping me grow towards becoming a better person, for your caring and sharing, for your

What is Life ?

A day with couple that want to die - these headlines in today's Mumbai Mirror (19th February) must have startled the readers. The report goes on to say, they have written to the President of India. seeking permission for euthanasia. Even more frightening is their next plan of action; the report goes on to further state that they are now planning a murder, as they are convinced that their plea for euthanasia would be not accepted - the husband would kill the wife and then he would be arrested and sentenced to death for the murder (their deadline is 31st March 2018).

A frightening situation, certainly. It is indeed difficult to understand what goes on the minds of such senior citizens. There's something weird about this couple. On the one hand, according to the news report, they seem to be spending their time in a nice manner, like taking walks, reading, etc. At the same time, they are bored with life; they are also willing to donate their bodies. They also say they chose not to have children as they considered it a "social crime" to add to the world's population. It is indeed difficult to understand the situation. And one tends to ask, "what is Life ?"

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

struggles and suffering, for your sensitivity and sincerity, for your inspiration and guidance, for the joy, love, courage and peace you have given to me and to many others.

THANKYOU for all that you have meant and been to me!

THANKYOU for accompanying me in this journey of life!

THANKYOU for helping me touch the feminine face of God!

THANKYOU WONDER WOMAN!

*(Fr Cedric Prakash SJ has penned these personal reflections as a tribute to women for International Women's Day 2018. Contact: cedricprakash@gmail.com)



On right to die with dignity

In a landmark verdict the Supreme Court has legalised passive euthanasia and approved making of a 'living will'. An application of this verdict to a few cases will bring clarity to the issue. In the case of KEM nurse Aruna Shanbaug who was brutally strangled and raped and lay in a vegetative state for 42 years, the verdict would have made no difference. The judgement requires that she should have made a 'living Will' while she was in sound mind. The Will needed to be signed by two witnesses and also countersigned by a First Class Judicial Magistrate. As she had not made a living Will and was not in a sound state of mind to make a Will, the judgement would not apply even assuming that the judgement had come some years earlier.

In the case of the very aged Lavate couple from Mumbai, who have no ailments but have petitioned the President for the right to active euthanasia and die with dignity, the judgement doesn't apply even if they have made a living Will because they are not terminally ill or on life support. The judgement doesn't allow active

euthanasia.

Those on life support system with virtually no chance of survival can have the plug pulled after a reasonable period of time, by doctors or family members provided a living Will was made by the patient.

The judgement offers great relief to terminally ill cancer patients who suffer excruciating pain and death. In this case the patient can opt not to continue with life prolonging medicines. It is pertinent to note that hospices already provide such services where life prolonging medicines are dispensed with and only palliative medicines are administered to relieve pain. The present judgement will be more beneficial, if there is a directive to the govt to set up several hospices to provide palliative medicines like morphine to alleviate the suffering of terminally ill patients.

At face value this judgement by the Supreme Court seems to go against the tenets of our Catholic faith as it advocates passive euthanasia. However, the reality is different. The above case studies show that the type of passive euthanasia advocated by the Supreme Court, already exists. In a Catholic hospice terminally ill patients suffering excruciating pain are administered morphine and other palliative medicines. In addition the good sisters provide TLC (tender loving care) to the patients. No other life prolonging medicines are administered to the patients. I would like to reiterate, no other medicine except palliative medicine is given. This is in line with the SC judgement. So far as switching off life support system, there is little point in continuing life support beyond a point. Who decides this point? It is the doctor who plays God in deciding when to switch off the life support system. In private hospitals it makes business to prolong the

life support. So if a patient is admitted to a private p hospitals he is kept on support for days. But if the same patient is admitted to a govt hospital the doctor plays God and pulls the plug in a day or two. The SC judgement now allows the family to take the decision, provided a living Will is executed. .

—Prof Robert Castellino Orlem.

Speaking Konkani at home

This is with reference to the article 'Speaking in our mother tongue at home' by Ancy D'souza (Secular citizen March 5-11). In the first place, I wonder what the writer means by "pure Konkani". Even in Goa where Konkani is the official state language, there is no such thing as "pure Konkani". We have the Bardez and Salcette varieties spoken by the Catholic community, interlaced with a lot of Portuguese words, as well as the Konkani spoken by the Hindus, which is a hybrid of Konkani and the vernacular. Then we have the Konkani spoken by the Mangalorean community with its own peculiarities exclusive to the community. I have still to understand what is meant by "Bombay Konkani", although I have lived most of my life in Bombay.

Secondly, what does the writer mean by "butler English". Is it the English spoken by the 'ABC Catholics'---- --Ayahs, Butlers and Cooks who form the un-educated class of Bombay whose mother tongue is Konkani? Thirdly, by what stretch of imagination does the writer state that the person who knows Konkani "can do a perfect pronunciation of English". One has only to live in Goa or Mangalore to know the truth and find out the difference. Finally, regarding script, the less said the better. Konkani in the Roman script is still the pride of Goa today.

—A. F. Nazareth, Alto Porvorim

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Syria's Bloody War



“I am going to tell God everything!” were apparently the last words of a three-year old Syrian child before she died. These heart-rending words accompanied with a moving picture of a child has been doing the rounds of social media along with thousands of other messages, pictures, videos on the Syrian war. It is hardly possible to authenticate or verify such media. Nevertheless, the words and the picture of the child sums it all: the utter hopelessness and helplessness of a people who have been enveloped in a tragic bloody war which does not seem to end; for many, in the war-torn land of Syria “just to die” seems the only way out and then “to tell God everything!” On the face of it, this sounds rather cynical; but often when despair sets in, hope and resilience take a backseat!



BY FR. CEDRIC PRAKASH SJ

February 2018 has been an extremely bad month for Syria and by all counts, the worst phase of the conflict, which began on 15 March 2011. The war until now was mainly concentrated in Homs, Aleppo Al Raqaa and some other areas. Damascus, the capital city, though subject to some intermittent attacks these past years, was regarded as a relatively safe and secure place. That reality, this past month, has changed dramatically with areas in and around Damascus subject to heavy artillery and aerial bombardments; besides, people from the besieged areas are apparently, as a last ditch effort also resorting to indiscriminate bombing in the densely popu-

lated areas of the old city. Bombing from the different warring factions has meant many fatalities, severe casualties and all round destruction.

Today Damascus, once a thriving metropolis, wears the appearance of a ghost town. There is very little movement on the streets. A large section of the people have left the city for safer and more secure places, in other parts of the country. Fear and a cloud of uncertainty has gripped everybody. In the early afternoon of 20 February Ms. Vivian Shaheen (who also volunteers with the Jesuit Refugee Service) was about to leave her workplace in a Government facility in the heart of Damascus. After days of experiencing frequent shelling in the Bab Tuoma area, Vivian had decided to take a break from Damascus and go to her family home in Maara, which is a safer location. She had just said “goodbye” to a close friend and colleague Ms. Lama Fallouh who was also headed home. Suddenly from nowhere a bomb exploded; Vivian did not know what had hit her, just that she was bleeding profusely. She was able to run to a vehicle that had come to pick her up and was rushed to a nearby hospital. A shrapnel had pierced her right shoulder (fragmenting the bones there) and exiting from her upper arm. Her friend Lama was killed instantaneously by that bomb! The tragic everyday reality of a people who have to deal with not only the violence but also the pain and trauma in the sudden loss of a loved one.

On 22 February, the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Mark Lowcock told the UN Security Council that it must act immediately “What we need is a sustained cessation of hostilities and we need it desperately Millions of battered and beleaguered children, women and men depend on meaningful action by this Council.” Mr. Lowcock went on to remind the Security Council that it had been briefed “in minute detail – month after month – on the scale of the suffering of the Syrian people, with endless reports on dead and injured children, women and men. Airstrikes, mortars, rockets, barrel bombs, cluster munitions, chemical weapons, thermite bombs, suicide bombs snipers, double-tap attacks on civilians and the essential infrastructure they depend on, including hospitals and school, rape, illegal detention, torture, child recruitment and sieges of entire cities reminiscent of medieval times”

After weeks of terrible bloodshed, the UN Security Council finally decided and voted unanimously on 24 February for a thirty-day cease-fire in Syria and to allow humanitarian aid to reach people in the most affected areas. Bombardments however, continued and ceasefire violations were recorded in different areas, more than a week after the resolution. The UN Security Council is once again called to play a watchdog role. Speaking at the opening of the regular session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva on 26 February, the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said that part of Syria was today “hell on earth” and “I remind all parties of their

(Contd.. on p. 7)

(Contd.. from p. 6)

absolute obligation and international humanitarian and human rights law to protect civilians and civilian infrastructure at all times."

The world community is aware that the Syrian conflict is very complex and not merely a 'civil' war; there are many other major stakeholders that have made Syria an international amphitheatre today. In the past month, the United States, Israel and Turkey have in turn bombarded military and civilian areas in Syria, on dubious and questionable grounds. The profiteering military-industrial complex needs to keep the region destabilized for its own selfish reasons. A good section of the media are so selective in their reporting and highlight just one side of the war. This is tragic indeed! It looks as though some of the so-called 'big powers' are really not serious about peace returning to Syria. At one stage, there was a modicum of hope, but now all that is destroyed with this latest round of violence – which is apparently the worst bout since the outbreak of hostilities in March 2011. The years of war have torn families apart; destroyed businesses and shattered livelihoods Filippo Grandi, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said some time ago, *"It is a collective failure. Ultimately, Syria's conflict isn't about numbers – it's about people"*

According to the latest statistics of the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), over 5.4 million people have fled Syria since 2011, seeking safety mainly in Lebanon, Turkey, and Jordan and beyond. There are at least 6.1 million more who are internally displaced inside Syria. Approximately 13.1 million people are in need in Syria of which 2.98 million still live in hard-to-reach and besieged areas. It is estimated that more than 3.5 million children under the age of seven, know nothing but war. Host communities are naturally under great strain as they shoulder the social, economic and political fallout. Hundreds of thousands have made perilous sea voyages seeking sanctuary; but no one is sure how

many may have died at sea. While many have sought refuge in Europe, Canada and the United States, only a small percentage have actually been welcomed. The world is also painfully aware of the groundswell of xenophobia, racism, intolerance, exclusiveness and the stranglehold of right-wing politics in several countries across the globe.

Pope Francis has consistently been demanding *"an immediate end to the inhuman violence in Syria"* and asking the world community to pray for peace in Syria. In a recent interview, Fr Nawras Sammour SJ, the Regional Director of the Jesuit Refugee Service (MENA) says, *"today Syria is in fact 'many Syrias' – that is a big tragedy. We were one country and one people! Unfortunately the last seven years has also witnessed the total fragmentation and division of Syria. We have become isolated, warring pockets- but for what? A question, which is very difficult to comprehend. So the restoration of our unity as one country is an important challenge for all the Syrian people"*. The Jesuit Chaldean Bishop Antoine Audo of Aleppo voices a similar sentiment, *"the only way to peace in Syria is a united and autonomous Syria. We should stop spreading hate, arms, violence and victims otherwise everything will continue to be at a dead-end!"*

This bloody Syrian war has in these seven years witnessed the deaths of thousands and caused the largest displacement in recent human history. After these terrible years of experiencing widespread destruction and insecurity, there is a natural frustration and a sense of fatigue. Most Syrians are ready to clutch at any straw for normalcy, to fan any glimmer of hope, which may come their way. They yearn for peace and stability; they want their united Syria of the past to be restored to them. They desperately want the bombarding and the air strikes (which today take place with frightening regularity) to stop now; today they live in a



state of total uncertainty, not knowing from where and when the next bomb will fall; like Vivian and her now dead friend Lama, they wonder whether they will live to see tomorrow!

At this moment fear, helplessness and hopelessness is the reality of many a Syrian today. The other day, as bombs rained in Damascus another friend of mine from there called saying, *"I am trapped. What do I do? When will this war ever end?"* There are obviously no clear answers and no words of comfort, which can ever change the grim reality, which people there have to face, day-in, and day-out. It is indeed a bloody, violent and ugly war that needs to be stopped immediately. The powerful, vested interests of the world must get their act together and ensure that now! The rest of us mortals can only hope and pray and given one's limitations, do all one can so that peace, security and normalcy returns to Syria and for her people today!

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

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WHETHER INDIA CAN LEAD THE NEW REVOLUTION OF SWITCHING FROM DIESEL, PETROL AND CNG VEHICLES TO ELECTRIC VEHICLES (EVs)?

by Eric D'Sa

The second ship that I boarded as young Marine Engineer at the port of Bombay in early 1960s, was a 12,000 dwt general cargo ship. It loaded general cargo first at Bombay and then at Cochin and Madras ports. At each port it took almost 7 to 10 days to load the cargo by shore cranes, the cargo was moved around manually by shore gangs inside the ship holds and then secured properly by wire slings, so that they would not shift, as the ship pitched and rolled in heavy seas. The ship then sailed to West Coast of USA via Singapore, where it discharged the cargoes at the port of Portland, San Francisco and Los Angeles, with more mechanised gears and larger cranes. The ship then loaded general cargoes for India in the same ports by reverse order. In each of the ports it took only 3 to 4 days. The ship then returned to India via Singapore and discharged the cargoes at the same ports of Madras, Cochin and Bombay. The round trip took 6 to 7 months. It was great times for bachelor sailors like myself, as we got time in each port to see the cities, in the evening visit the pubs and promise the moon and the stars to all the pretty girls we met, in return for whatever favours we received,

knowing very well that most probably we may not visit the same ports again. The wages were good and there was plenty of duty free liquor on board.

A decade later after this fabulous life at sea, the last three as the Chief Engineer, I took up a shore job at Bombay. A revolution then was taking place, in the way the General cargo was being loaded on to the ships and then discharged, with what are termed as standardised cargo steel containers. These were standardised to 20 ft x 8 ft x 8.5 ft. and loaded by standardised

commercial company in India, I was surprised to hear from their Chief Executive, that Scindias will not switch to container ships, as it was impossible for many reasons to handle the standardised cargo containers in India and he could not see that the systems would change quickly in India. Hence they would continue with the same old designed general cargo ships. Unfortunately for India even Shipping Corporation of India, a government of India owned shipping company, took a similar stand. By early 1980s Scindias started loosing business and in

1990s it went bankrupt. Meanwhile China had taken to containers in a big way. Their logistic systems and ports were quickly converted to handle containers and they also started investing in bigger and faster moving container ships. They hardly take these days, just a day or two to discharge and load cargo from these very large container ships in each ports. This brought down in a big way the logistic costs of their exports and hence the landed costs of their products. Their export based GDP grew to double digits for almost two decades. Today Chinese own one of the largest fleet of fast very large container ships. Indian exports have been out priced and struggling to grow. Nearly all general cargoes the world over are transported in standardised containers.

YOU THE CITIZENS DECIDE:

lifting equipment and shore cranes into specially built container general cargo ships. The containers were made to quickly load on flat deck trucks and railway open wagons and be fixed securely with a click within a few minutes. This was done by US authorities concerned, after having intensive discussions with all stakeholders: consignors and consignees truck and railway owners, ports, and ship owners and the government authorities such as customs and civic authorities. The beauty of the system was, the containers could be loaded in the factory of the consignor and be received at the consignees godown without any one opening the containers. The total transit time was reduced drastically, at times as much as half the time taken earlier. There was less damage and no pilferage specially of expensive items, hence costs came down rapidly.

On one of my official visits to Scindias with a colleague of mine from BP London in the middle of 1970s; which was then the largest shipping company in India and the third largest

I am narrating the above to show, how as a large developing country, India can switch quickly to EVs and become its world leader. I suffer from time to time from severe chest congestion over the years and the main cause has been air pollution. Hence I am a big advocate for protecting our children's health, to a quick shift from Diesel and Petrol vehicles, especially the privately owned ones, to EVs. I myself have changed from diesel powered SUV into petrol powered car

(Contd.. on p. 9)



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(Contd.. from p. 8)

and four years ago into CNG powered car. I have also witnessed due to half hearted implementation of CNG systems, taxi and auto owners waste a lot of their productive times, waiting in long queues to fill gas. This is a big disincentive for private owners to switch to CNG vehicles, though it is much cheaper than both diesel and Petrol to do so. My next car is definitely going to be an EV.

So what will make this switch to EVs fast? The EV industry is at the same place today, as the transportation industry was before a switch was made in USA to standardise general cargo containers. GOI will have to form a battery standardisation group consisting of representatives of battery manufacturers, electric vehicle manufacturers, consumers, designers, present Petrol/ diesel dispensing stations etc. The concerned ministries will have to be involved. Once the size of length, breath and height of a single battery is fixed, then the next requirement will be the battery terminals and their position on the battery will have to be fixed. Further how individual batteries can be assembled in two, three, four battery packs, will have to be standardised. The next step will be to standardise the charging cables and their sockets.

More importantly the committee will have to work on how individual batteries can be made cheap and at the same time with as much power in them as possible. Prices of the batteries, their useful life and how quickly the ones in use could be recharged or exchanged with a fully charged battery at reasonable costs and quickly are extremely important. The safety aspect of the batteries being charged at home by an average EV owner will have to be carefully looked into to avoid accidents. As vehicle owners we are presently used to swinging into a Petrol station and refuel our vehicles within a few minutes. Renewal of battery packs will have to be equally fast, around 3 to 5 minutes. The advantages of batteries are that

Maharashtra government... *in a hurry !*

Around six years ago when L.K. Advani was in the forefront and parliament was not being allowed to function, **somebody referred to 'L.K. Advani, as 'an old man in a hurry', in an apparent reference to the opposition plans to precipitate mid-term polls, projecting Advani as the prime ministerial candidate.**

Today, we have the Maharashtra State government in a hurry to introduce books on Narendra Modi into the educational system. According to newspaper reports, the government has ordered nearly 1.5 lakh books on Prime Minister Narendra Modi that will be supplied to the state government-run schools by this month-end, which will be used as a supplementary reading material for students from class 1 to 8. **Why is the government in such a tearing hurry to introduce these books, one tends to ask.** Appar-

ently, it is an 'image-building' step being adopted by the government. *The elections are not far away !*

The whole educational system in the state seems to be going awry. We have been seeing the mismanagement in our Mumbai University – exam schedules, results going haywire !

Several years ago, Mumbai University was forced to withdraw the book 'Such a Long Journey' by Rohinton Mistry, mid-way through the academic year, because it hurt the sentiments of a political party.

What are we coming to ? It's time to stem the rot that has seeped into our educational system and in our country in general.

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

they are far less explosive and volatile than Petrol and diesel and hence a lot more battery exchange stations can be set up within the city and even on highways. For instance battery sales and tire sales shops could also take up this job. Shopping malls which have large parking areas can set up these battery swapping stations, so that the batteries can be swapped while the owners are busy in the malls. Office complexes can also have similar battery swapping malls.

To make it a feasible business and bring down the costs, the taxes on batteries will have to be minimum. It will also make sense that the battery swapping infrastructure being established for the mass city trans-

portation sector, will cover all vehicle types - scooters, motor bikes, auto rickshaws, cars, trucks and buses. Once the infrastructure is set up, the diesel vehicles will have to be banned from plying in the cities. This is happening in the European cities and will definitely reduce air pollution. Given India's commitment to becoming all electric vehicles country by 2030, we have the opportunity to take the lead in establishing the above battery standards and get our battery manufacturers and automobile industry to build e.vehicles around the the infrastructure at the scale that is only possible in India. You the citizens can decide whether our country can develop the required blue print for e. vehicle transportation for the world to follow?

Never Ending Temptations

It's that time of year when we are never endingly reminded about temptations – Jesus', not ours! After all, we are goody-goody church goers. We haven't defrauded a bank, murdered somebody in a communal riot, and haven't had the guts to covet the neighbour's spouse! So why bother about temptations? After all, Lent is about eating fish on Fridays, and having 1½ meals on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Obligations fulfilled. We are good Christians.

After three temptations in the desert Jesus was also over and done with them, and now free to preach the Good News. Nothing could be further from the truth. Let us first examine the three temptations. Of the Synoptic writers, Mark dismisses it in two lines. Mathew has a different sequence to Luke. The latter's version is quoted more often, and makes more sense to me. So I will stick to the Lukan version found in Chapter 4.

The three temptations are (i) If you are the Son of God, turn this stone into a loaf of bread (v 4); (ii) I will give you all this power and splendour, if you do homage to me (v 6) and (iii) If you are Son of God throw yourself down, for Scripture says that angels will protect you (v11). These are the temptations. How did Jesus handle them?

Primarily, by having recourse to Sacred Scripture, the Word of God. Jesus had been fasting in the desert for forty days (no 1½ meals a day). Obviously he would have been famished. As the old saying goes, "for a hungry man, God comes in the form of bread". So the Tempter was just following the laws of nature, telling Jesus to fill his stomach. But we are missing the caveat – "If you are the Son of God". So the aim was to derail Jesus, to pre-empt his public life by an early manifestation (epiphany) of who

TEMPTATION



he was. Had that happened Jesus would probably have been described as some kind of magician or miracle worker, an image that he assiduously avoided throughout his public life.

How does Jesus combat the two pronged temptation – to succumb to physical desires, and thereby derail his mission? By quoting from Deuteronomy 8:3, that man does not live by

bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God (Mat 4:4). The Tempter doesn't give up easily. He next takes him to the top of a high mountain and shows him a vast expanse of civilization; telling him that he would get all power and splendour if only ..." (ibid).

The temptation has now gone from the merely physical to the ever enticing thirst for power and pelf. Leaders aspire to be powerful, so the Tempter was exploiting the next human aspiration – the pride that comes with unbridled power. Once again Jesus quotes from Deuteronomy to say that homage is paid to God alone (cf Deut 6:13). On a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 1980 I did go up to the Mount of Temptation. It is so high that one can see eagles flying way below! Yes, one can indeed see a panorama from there.

The Tempter now switches to Jesus' tactic. He too quotes Scripture, this time from Psalm 91:11-12, that the angels will protect you when you jump. Had Jesus jumped he would, in all probability, have died. Even if he had survived or was resurrected, it would

have been a premature act, lacking credibility. For the third time Jesus uses Scripture to counter the Tempter, again quoting Deuteronomy to say, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test" (Deut 6:16).

What Lenten lessons can we learn from this? Firstly, that the Tempter is cunning, not showing his true colours, or even misquoting Scripture to suit his purpose. We find that Jesus himself is fully conversant with Scripture, and quotes it correctly to ward off temptation. A careful study of the mission of Jesus shows that he was very conversant with Scripture; from the first proclamation in the Synagogue in Nazareth (cf Lk 4: 16-22), to his final cry of agony on the cross. "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani", a quote from Psalm 22:1.

Our first lesson this Lent should not be about what to eat or abstain from, but to understand the power of the Word of God. Describing the Armour of God Paul tells the Ephesians that the Word of God is the Sword of the Spirit, to quench the burning arrows of the Evil One (cf Eph 6:16-17).

If we still think that Jesus was done with temptation we are sadly mistaken. In fact the narrative ends by saying that the Tempter, having exhausted every way of putting him to the test, left him until the opportune moment (Lk 4:13). A careful study of Jesus' public ministry shows that the Tempter in fact was always hovering around looking for a chink in Jesus' armour.



by chhotebhai *

(Contd.. on p. 15)

No sarkar without Sakar

There is no stopping the BJP now. It had always been strong in the North [it was known to be a Hindi belt party] and within a reasonably short time it has made forays into hitherto forbidden regions in a systematic manner. It looks like a highly professional approach with some very capable people working diligently for some years. Ever since the party won the historic 2014 elections, the die was cast for a bigger catch. Those at the helm of affairs had made it their mission to encompass the whole country and they went about their business in a well calibrated fashion. The men in charge had the State-wise election timetable in front of them and they worked on each State by highlighting the weaknesses of the parties in power to capitalize on the dissatisfaction among the people there.

Barring a couple of States, the BJP either singly or with their allies won elections after elections. There were no surprises as there was a perception that no other party could match the administrative caliber of the BJP or the charisma of the top two – Narendra Modi and Amit Shah. This duo has literally managed to woo some of the seven sisters in the east which has been neglected by the Congress during its long tenancy in Delhi. The fragmented Congress leadership did not have any vision for the neglected part of the eastern region and it is this aspect that the BJP highlighted and earned rich dividends. It is just not one State but earlier it was Assam and three more States have been added to this tally.

Take the case of Tripura where BJP/IPFT did not have a single seat in 2013 but now they have 43 out of 59/60 with a vote share of 50.5%. What else could that party ask for! It has literally decimated the well entrenched CPM reducing it from 50 to 16. For the first time in a long time Tripura will not have a sarkar without Sarkar. The Communists lost West Bengal first and now have been ousted from Tripura and as things unfold, it will be a Herculean task for them to retain the last bastion in Kerala. If the BJP succeeds there you can safely write the obituary of the communist movement in India.

In Nagaland though the NPF gave BJP a run for its money but with 28 seats it can dictate terms. Here again the BJP increased its tally from 1 to 28. Like in Tripura the Congress drew

VIEWS on NEWS

a blank. The only saving face for the grand old party was Meghalaya where it could emerge as a single largest party with 21 seats down from 29 held earlier. With 19 seats by NPP and 2 by BJP the tally equals that of Congress – 21 and here the other small parties will bargain hard for maximum benefits in cash and kind in return for support in government formation.

The Congress is akin to the three blind men not knowing where and how to go. Alone they are a big flop but there are very few [handful] like the NCP who are willing to go with it. SP and Mayawati have kept their distance. Biju is a reluctant partner. The DMK, with Stalin at the helm, will have ego issues. Mamta has other ideas and has roped in K.C.Rao. Rahul Gandhi is not seen as a serious challenger to Modi. Sitaram Yechury may be able to have his say and align with the Congress. Would it not be a good idea if NCP merges with the Congress? Could a master strategist like Sharad Pawar emerge as an acceptable leader to all the opposition parties? That could change the dynamics of the 2019 elections. If that does not happen, most parties will be extinct at least for the foreseeable future. Finally, should the Churches indulge in politics? The Roman Catholic Church has rightly remained apolitical. It has always advised the faithful to vote sensibly. The Church in North-East erred in exhorting its members not to vote for a particular party. Voter's choice of party is outside the domain of the Church.

Statue-wars

The BJP has won the elections in Tripura no doubt but needs to be a bit sensitive about certain issues. The communists ruled the State for quarter of a century which means the public there had ideological proximity with the communists elsewhere and that includes Russian leader Lenin. It was not right on the part of the new government to let its supporters demolish the statue of Lenin within a couple of days of assuming power. It was well planned with bulldozers etc. Nobody is denying you the credit for dislodging the well entrenched communist regime. Everybody applauded the party for the stupendous victory in that part of the country. Power



by Marshall Sequeira

should never go to one's head. We call it arrogance.

We need to be a little tolerant. The statue there could not have haunted the new regime. Is the party so insecure that they are afraid that the statue could continue to inspire the communist cadres there and galvanize them to start a new movement to dislodge the new regime? For a party which has covered most of the country there is no need to be so edgy. It is a sign of weakness and not strength.

The very fact that the same people who had voted the communists to power election after election, voted the BJP to power with an impressive tally of 43. It could not have asked for more. Naturally the erstwhile Sarkar government failed to meet the aspirations of the new generation and he was voted out. That gives the new government ample opportunities to accept the challenge and deliver in a way that it can remain entrenched for many years. The CPM has rightly likened it to the demolition of the Buddha statues in Afghanistan which was condemned by the BJP as well. Some have called it Babri Part II. Naturally this has had cascading effect in other States like Tamil Nadu and Bengal by way of retaliation. Even Maharashtra was not spared. As usual, UP takes the cake with a repeat performance.

Accepted that Lenin was a foreigner but have we not continued with the names and other symbols associated with the British Raj? The British harmed the Indians, Russians under Lenin did not. For Narendra Modi it is not enough to condemn strongly. Re-installation of the Lenin statues, which were vandalized and demolished, should be ordered. It looks like nobody heeds warnings any longer. Is it a failure of the authority? At this rate nothing can be safe. Anything can be demolished by the fringe elements and the authorities will say, they are not our party members and wash their hands clean.

The Wisdom of the Crowd

by Don Aguiar

I am quite amazed at the naivety and the gullibility of the Indian masses. They fall for anything that is well packaged, without bothering to check the quality of the contents of the package. And they do it again and again without fail. Meanwhile... these gullible people of India can sit back, watch photo shopped pictures of Clean Ganga on Social Media, look at those pink notes and think about the GPS tracking chip in it, dance around dreaming of one nation one tax and hope they don't fall ill and have to use that insurance cover to pay the bills at the nearest private hospital.

Nothing has changed about the naivety and gullibility of the masses from the time of Jesus till date. At that time also the masses fell for anything that came from the high priest and those in power which was well packaged, without bothering to check the facts, resulting in these gullible people being misled to agree to the false accusation of Jesus by the high priest and those in power as well as agree to the high priest demand to get Jesus scourged and crucified. And the masses continue to do it again and again till date.

The idea of the wisdom of the crowd can be traced back to Aristotle's theory of collective judgment as presented in his work Politics. He used a potluck dinner as an example, explaining that a group of individuals may come together to create a more satisfying feast for a group as a whole than what one individual might provide. The high priest at the time of Jesus got the masses to come together as a whole to turn against Jesus to create a more satisfying experience for them than what they could have done alone as individuals.

"The wisdom of crowd" outlines three conditions for a group to be collectively intelligent: - diversity, independence, and decentralization.

When we make it possible for people



to aggregate their wisdom in independent, diverse and decentralized ways, the resulting wisdom of the crowd can be uncannily accurate.

When it comes to predictions, I believe in the wisdom of the crowd, especially when people have to put their money where their mouths are. When there's hundreds of thousands of people betting their own hard-earned money on the outcome of a U.S. presidential election or the World Series, you get a pretty good line on who's the real favorite to win. And if you want in on the action, you better check your biases at the door.

At the time of Jesus, the of the high priest and those in power convinced the masses to take their side in accusing Jesus of wrong doing, although some of them knew they were being misled on the evil designs of the high priest and those in power. But when they saw the majority following the orders of the high priest they got a pretty good idea on the outcome and were not willing to stick their head out of the crowd to counter the accusation with facts. As the High Priest brainstormed the masses or the wisdom of the crowd into believing their false accusation of Jesus are facts.

In 2009 the BJP lead by Modi knew how to get back black money from Swiss banks, In 2011 Smriti Irani fought on the streets against high gas prices, Sushma Swraj called petrol hike a betrayal, Jaitley wanted IT slab raised to 5 lakh. By brainwashing the crowds or

masses that they stand by these demands if elected, they ensured by misleading the wisdom of the crowd that their false promises are facts and got elected. After four years and un kept promises the wisdom of the crowd is of the opinion that since they cared for them so much while in the opposition let's send them back there as they continue to cling to their past.

The theory of a democratic government or even that of a kingdom is not that the will of the people is always right, but rather that normal human beings of average intelligence will, if given a chance, learn the right and best course by bitter experience – W.E.B. Du Bois, educator, civil rights activists and writer (23 Feb 1868-1963)

Crowdsourcing is a close cousin of the wisdom of the crowd. Again, the idea is to tap into a worldwide source of opinions via the Internet, only this time the objective is to evaluate or address a particular task. As Ben Christensen, the director of content relevance operations at Appen, says, "The power of crowdsourcing is in its numbers."

Crowdsourcing was prevalent at the time of Jesus where the high priest and those in power took numbers into consideration for their support into getting Jesus to be scourged and crucified. This practice has continued in our Church and even today it is the numbers that count irrespective of the facts. Ethics and following in the footsteps of Jesus are mostly forgotten.

The BJP/RSS and the High Priest at the time of Jesus and even the Church explores a simple idea: Large groups of people, when misled, are smarter than an elite few, no matter how brilliant—better at solving problems, fostering innovation, coming to wise decisions, even predicting the future.

This ranges across fields as diverse as popular culture, psychology, ant biology, behavioral economics, artificial intelligence, military history, religious

(Contd.. on p. 13)

(Contd.. from p. 12)

beliefs and politics to show how this simple idea offers important lessons for how we live our lives, select our leaders, run our companies, and think about our world.

Who wants to be average? To be average is to be commonplace and unexceptional. It conjures up the mediocre or banal - the consensus, the mass, the run of the mill. But here's the rub: in the right circumstances, the average is the best place to be. Take a competition based on guessing something, such as the number of jellybeans in a barrel or the weight of a cow. In most cases, the average of a crowd's guesses is more likely to be accurate than those of its individual members. Although it may be counter to our intuitions, the masses can be smarter than the solitary expert. So much for mediocrity

In an age routinely denounced as selfishly individualistic, it's curious that a great deal of faith still seems to lie with the judgment of the crowd, especially when it can apparently be far off the mark. Yet there is some truth underpinning the idea that the masses can make more accurate collective judgments than expert individuals. So why is a crowd sometimes right and sometimes disastrously wrong?

It is pointed out that the crowd is far from infallible. One requirement for a good crowd judgment is that people's decisions are independent of one another. If everyone let themselves be influenced by each other's guesses, there's more chance that the guesses will drift towards a misplaced bias. At the time of Jesus the masses were influenced by the High Priest and those in power resulting in their willingness to drift towards a misplaced bias.

The interesting question is why the era of mass enfranchisement has seen the less well-off members of society so frequently vote against their own economic interests or even the masses turning against Jesus at the call of the High Priest. Given the breathtaking inequality that exists in many democracies as well as kingdoms at the time of Jesus, how is it that the

average doesn't choose parties/people backing economic redistribution or the fact/truth?

The answer to that question reveals the limitations on the wisdom of the crowd. The average of a sufficient number of guesses will get the number of jellybeans right. But supplying distracting or misleading information can easily skew the individual's responses. Collect enough people on a street corner staring at the sky, and everyone who walks past will look up. Show a voter enough political broadcasts or commentaries and she may be persuaded to vote against her interests. The High Priest many accusations on Jesus persuaded and convinced the masses to act against their own interest forgetting all the good Jesus had done for them. Given enough encouragement, a large group may even be convinced that black is indeed white

The wisdom of the crowd can also help explain what makes the Church, communal organizations or markets, which are a type of crowd, efficient at times and inefficient at others. If participants are not diverse and if they lack incentives, then the Church, communal organization or markets will be inefficient and a decision arrived at or an item's price will be out of step with its value.

The Catholic Church was wise to adopt the office of "Advocatus Diaboli" when considering its candidates for sainthood. A group that merely confirms already held opinion serves no useful purpose. A committee that thinks of nothing but camels will surely design one; a committee that frets about weapons of mass destruction everywhere will imagine them anywhere. But of late this procedure may have been put aside to accommodate high profile candidates carried on the back of media blitz

While the idea that the many are smarter than the few has merit, it is not always true, particularly when members of the crowd are aware of and influenced by each other's ideas. Consensus thinking among a group of people with poor judgment can, unsurprisingly, lead to poor group decision making; this factor may have been one of the causes

of the masses turning against Jesus at the calling of the High Priest or of the 2008 financial crisis or whatever. It can also explain why the Church, democracies and hierarchies sometimes elect unqualified leaders or whoever. In other words, it matters who is in the crowd

There's another key factor that makes the crowd accurate, or not. It has long been argued that the wisest crowds are the most diverse. In other words, diverse minds do better, when their decisions are averaged, than expert minds.

If you want accuracy, then, add those who might disagree strongly with your group. Do you reckon of the chances that the clergy, managers and politicians will select such contrarian candidates to join them?

Without dissent and critical thinking, societies and organizations become obsolete and decadent. While the rest of the world moves ahead, such societies and organizations become regressive and underdeveloped.

There is a need for thinkers and movements to provide an ongoing positive and constructive critique, so as to improve upon personal wellbeing, healthy social relations and the common good.

Our longstanding culture of pluralism and diversity has come under serious threat, and will eventually lead to a complex set of problems, including mistrust of others, domination of the powerful over the weak, social unrest and violence, poor economic development and a loss of international soft power. How true this would work out to be if we don't wake up and take corrective action.

Rooted in a culture of trust, with liberty and justice as wings, we envisage a hermeneutic of suspicion which is prophetic, transformative, gender-neutral and promotes sustainable development,

Let us hope that this will help "to promote an enlightened collective consciousness which will prevent such regression to take shape.

Smartphones – a good servant or a bad master ?

There was a disturbing newsreport recently in the Times of India which says, according to a study by doctors in U.K., **“excessive use of Touchphones is damaging the Finger Muscles of kids and, therefore they cannot hold pencils & pens.**



The report further says that, “It’s easier to give a child an iPad than encouraging them to do muscle-building play such as building blocks, cutting and sticking, or pulling toys and ropes,” Ah ! and these are things we adults would do when we were kids !

The scenario seems looks frightening. We see some parents boasting that their 3 year old kid is able to operate the smartphone more efficiently than the adults - they know exactly which key to touch. Is this something to be proud of ? One shudders to think what more is in store for the kids, yet to come into the world. And come to think of it, are only the kids being affected by these smartphones ? There are instances where adults are unable to link their Aadhar cards to their bank accounts, etc., because the bio-metric machine is unable to read their fingers. Could this be due to excessive use of smartphones ?

It is said **‘money is good servant, but a bad master’**. Similarly, one tends to think, these smartphones are a good servant but definitely a bad master. Instead of humans controlling these smartphones, it is the other way round. One can only say, **‘smartphones are getting smarter, while those who use them are getting dumber.**



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

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Thanksgiving



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May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, loved, glorified & praised throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us. Sacred Heart of Jesus, Thy kingdom come. St. Jude worker of miracles pray for us. St. Jude helper of the hopeless pray for us. Amen,
Say this prayer nine times a day for nine days.

— Ms Flavia Rego, Dubai

Unfailing Prayer to St. Anthony



O holy St. Anthony, gentlest of Saints, your love for God and Charity for his creatures, made you worthy, when on earth, to possess miraculous powers. Miracles waited on your word, which you were ever ready to speak for those in trouble or anxiety. Encouraged by this thought, I implore of you to obtain for me (request). The answer to my prayer may require a miracle, even so, you are the Saint of Miracles. O gentle and loving St. Anthony, whose heart was ever full of human sympathy, whisper my petition into the ears of the Sweet Infant Jesus, who loved to be folded in your arms; and the gratitude of my heart will ever be yours.

—Joseph M, Wadala

Thanksgiving



May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be Praised Adored, Glorified and Loved today and everyday throughout the world, now and forever.Amen!!

Ask St. Clare for three favours two impossible and say nine Hail Mary's and the above prayer for 9 days with a lighted candle and publish on the 9th day your

request will be granted no matter how impossible it is

—Ms Florine Veigas, Thane

(Contd.. from p. 10)

A favourite tactic was when Jesus performed a miracle and told the beneficiary to not tell anyone about it (I am not a magician), he would loudly proclaim that Jesus was the Son of God; a title that Jesus himself abjured; repeatedly calling himself the son of man instead (the aam aadmi), "bar nasa" in his native Aramaic, a term he used 82 times in the New Testament.

When Peter in mistaken ardour wanted to proclaim Jesus as the messiah, he was rebuked, "Get behind me Satan" (Mat 16:23). Jesus was tempted throughout his life, but I will now limit myself to what I would call his last two temptations. The first is the agony in the Garden of Gethsemane (this together with the Mount of Temptation were the two places where I had the most profound experiences, far more than Calvary or the Holy Sepulchre).

Jesus knew how excruciating and shameful a crucifixion was. It was usually reserved for defenceless slaves or foreigners. They were stripped naked. They died of gradual asphyxiation, their eyes plucked out by birds of prey, and their genitals torn off by wild beasts. The torment usually lasted three days. So Jesus could have chosen an escape route (why seek confrontation or martyrdom)? The Tempter was telling him not to drink the cup. This again would have derailed Jesus' salvific mission, which is just what the plan was from the very beginning.

The conflict or temptation in Jesus was not easily resolved. That is why Jesus tells his dumb disciples to "pray and not be put to the test" (Lk 22:40). Luke the physician now describes Jesus as sweating blood (v 44). The Greek word used is thrombos (clot in English). Dr Pierre Barbet M.D., Head of the Department of Surgery, St Joseph's Hospital, Paris, has described Jesus' passion in clinical terms in his book "The Passion of the Lord Jesus Christ".

He says "This phenomenon, which is known to the profession as haematomatosis consists of an intense vasodilatation of the subcutaneous capillaries.

They become extremely distended, and burst when they come in contact with the millions of sweat glands which are distributed all over the skin. The blood mingles with the sweat". If the physical agony was so intense, imagine the temptation that he was warding off.

Now to the Last Temptation. Sorry Dan Brown, Knights Templar and Freemasons, but this is nothing to do with having sex with Mary Magdalene! Anybody with an elementary experience of mysticism will know that physical temptations like hunger and sex would be nothing compared to what was now at stake. Remember that even an ordinary soldier like Uriah the Hittite refused to have sex with his wife Bathsheba, despite the desperate attempts of King David to get him drunk, so as to cover up his own act of rape (cf 2 Sam 11;10-13). Surely Jesus had far more spiritual stamina than Uriah!

What then was the Last Temptation? It was a last ditch effort to prevent Jesus from dying on the cross. The temptation came through the Roman soldiers, "If you are the Christ of God come down" (Lk 23:35) and one of the fellow convicts, "Are you not the Christ, save yourself and us as well" (v 39). In this last temptation also Jesus has recourse to Scripture, crying out "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani", followed by "It is accomplished" (Jn 19:30) and "Into your hands I commend my spirit" (Lk 23:46).

In the Letter to the Hebrews we are told that "the high priest we have is not incapable of feeling our weaknesses with us, but has been put to the test in exactly the same way as ourselves, apart from sin" (Heb 4:15). Some translations say "but did not sin". Amazingly, Nikos Kazantzakis, the much maligned Greek author of "The Last Temptation" first published in 1952, is closer to understanding Jesus than many "holy men". He "seeks to portray Jesus as human and experiencing all human emotions". It says that "had Jesus succumbed to any such temptation, especially the opportunity to save himself from the

cross, his life would have held no more significance than that of any other philosopher". Words of wisdom from a novelist, not a theologian.

This shows that Jesus, as a human being, was repeatedly tested, but DID NOT sin. Had he been a super human he COULD NOT have sinned, thereby placing him in a class apart, out of our reach. He would then be worthy of our adulation, not our emulation.

Rather we should see temptation as having positive value. St Paul is usually portrayed as a strong man. But this is what he says of himself, "So that I should not get above myself, I was given a thorn in the flesh, a messenger from Satan, to bother me and prevent me from getting above myself" (2 Cor 12:7). Most married persons would unhesitatingly endorse Paul's views! The Catechism of the Catholic Church beautifully sums it up, "Trials are necessary for the growth of the inner man ... We must discern between being tempted and consenting (succumbing) to temptation ... There is a certain usefulness to temptation" (CCC 2847).

There we are. Never mind the fasting and abstinence. During this Lent, whenever we are battered by doubt and temptations let us emerge as better human beings. Temptations will never end. But with the Word of God "We shall overcome" and emerge victorious.

** The writer has authored books on the Trinity and Christology, though he has no formal training in theology or spirituality.*

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Newspaper reporting isn't fun!

Newspaper journalists, also called reporters, investigate and write stories for local as well as national newspapers. To become a newspaper journalist, one needs to have an investigative mind and should have a knack for doing research. The candidate also needs to be determined and persistent to make sure that he/she is aware about the latest report. One can make a foray into newspaper journalism by pursuing a course in journalism or by simply working as a trainee journalist in a local newspaper office. For both types of entry, it will help if you possess relevant experience, either through volunteering, paid work or sending articles which you've written during your spare time. It is a good idea to keep clippings of your published work and present them before the potential employers. To build up your experience, you can volunteer for student and community newspapers, submit articles to websites or maintain an online journal or blog.

Newspaper journalists cover up any event of interest to their specific audience, ranging from reporting on council meetings and school fetes for a local newspaper, to general elections and world events for the national press.

As a newspaper journalist, your work would typically include investigating a story as soon as it breaks out following up potential leads, developing new contacts, interviewing people, both personally and over the phone, attending press conferences, recording meetings and interviews, using recording equipment or writing in shorthand, coming up with ideas for new stories and features and writing articles in a style that will appeal to the intended audience. One can opt for specialisation in a specific subject such as sports, politics or entertainment. Most newspapers have



an online edition; you may also write features and stories for their websites. Newspaper journalists sometimes work as sub-editors, editing the news filed by reporters. They process the stories and rectify the errors and also check the facts. As a journalist, one needs to remain flexible about working hours. Following up stories, responding to breaking news and meeting deadlines can mean working long, irregular hours, including late nights, weekends and on public holidays.

Journalists work in many areas of life, finding and presenting information. In my opinion, the main responsibility of a newspaper journalist is to report the news in a truthful, unbiased and apolitical way.

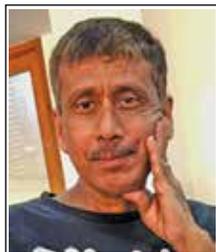
A journalist will usually be working in an open-plan office, which is likely to be hectic and noisy most of the time. One will also have to spend their time out of the office and may have to travel long distances for following up stories. If you work for the national or international press, this could mean travelling anywhere in the world, sometimes at short notices.

Journalists have a number of roles and responsibilities that they must consider throughout the course of their entire career; but of course this depends upon the area of journalism

with which they are involved.

Newspaper reporting isn't fun. It is long working hours with sometimes the reporter going without food for hours together.

News reporters do a marvellous job by providing us with news of all sorts from all over the world. They put their life in danger just to provide us with information. But unfortunately, the journalists who give up their life and time for us are not well treated and are beaten up many-a-times by the police and politicians. I really appreciate newspaper journalists and their passionate job that despite being assaulted many times, they don't give up and perform their duties with perfection and that too in a truthful way.



by Jubel D'Cruz

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Inspiration!

Gratitude: The missing link in modern times

We live in a time where everyone is on the pursuit of happiness. Each individual has his or her own path to this journey. But perhaps the most popular form of seeking happiness is through the accumulation of 'things'. Materialism, though, is bought at a cost. A society that feels entitled to what it receives does not adequately express gratitude. Seen through the lens of buying and selling, relationships as well as things are viewed as disposable, and gratitude cannot survive this materialistic onslaught. So, let's try to understand why no duty is more pressing than that of gratitude and how we can develop the attitude of gratitude.

We have grown in numbers, wealth and power but we have forgotten Gratitude! We have forgotten the acknowledgment, appreciativeness, grace, gratefulness, praise, responsiveness and thankfulness; all of which is related to gratitude. Having said that, being grateful is a choice, a prevailing attitude that endures and is relatively immune to the gains and losses that flow in and out of our lives. Gratitude is a selfless act. Gratitude acts are done unconditionally to show to people that they are appreciated, not because people are looking for something in return; however, that is not to say that people do not return the favor. Gratitude can be contagious, in a good way. When disaster strikes, gratitude provides a perspective from which we can view life in its entirety and not be overwhelmed by temporary circumstances. Yes, this



perspective is hard to achieve- but it is worth the effort. Here are the main benefits of gratitude:

- Grateful people celebrate the present.
- Gratitude blocks toxic negative emotions. For instance, it is impossible to feel grateful and envious at the same time.
- Grateful people are more stress-resistant. Many studies show that grateful people recover from trauma more easily, perhaps because it gives a perspective from which to perceive events.
- Grateful people have a higher sense of self-worth. This comes from a sense that someone else is looking out for them, so they must be worth something.

Another interesting angle on the benefits of gratitude is the way it challenges dominant psychological patterns. We are often taught to believe that we get what we deserve or, in other words, if something good happens, we've earned it. There is often a self-serving bias in this, that if something goes wrong we blame others (or perhaps we blame ourselves and refuse to forgive ourselves). Gratitude works against this by broadening our perspective to include the people and events that have helped and supported us.

The next question is how to become more grateful or how to practice gratitude. Here are a few of the tips:

- Keeps a gratitude journal. Set aside time, ideally a daily practice, to re-

mind yourself of the gifts and good things you enjoy

- Remember the bad. It can be helpful to remember the tough times you've

had. These can remind you how far you've come and encourage gratefulness.

- Learn prayers of gratitude. These are considered by many spiritual traditions to be the most powerful form of prayer.
- Come to your senses. Through touch, taste, sight, smell and sound we are reminded what it is to be human, what a gift our bodies are and the miracle it is to be alive.
- Use visual reminders. The two primary obstacles to gratefulness are forgetfulness and lack of mindful awareness, so use visual reminders - other people are often the best reminders.
- Make a vow to practice gratitude. Research shows that making an oath to perform a behavior increases the likelihood it will be done, so write a gratitude vow: 'I will count my blessings every day'.
- Watch your languages. Grateful people often use the languages of gifts, blessings, fortune, abundance, focusing on the good things others have done for them.
- Go through the motions. By going through the motions, the emotion of gratitude should be triggered. Grateful motions include smiling, saying thank you and writing letters of gratitude or thank you letters.

Have less Attitude and more Gratitude

- Gratitude and its influence in our lives is highly fruitful. There is no excuse for not conveying your feelings to your loved ones today. There is no excuse for not expressing your gratitude and appreciation today. There is no excuse for not taking a few minutes of your time to check-in on somebody who has influenced your life with his or her gift of kindness.

Can this be a Definition Of A Bank...?

A bank is a broker between the middle class and the rich. The only place where the two meet is in a bank. The middle class brings the money, through saving, and the rich takes it, through borrowing. A middle class person saves the money because they have more money than their thinking capacity. So they keep the money in the bank so they can go and think what to do with the money they saved.

On the other side, the rich people come to pick that money, through borrowing, because they have more ideas than the money they have. On a practical side, please show me one billionaire who got rich through saving and I will show you a million Indians who have money saved in the banks and are still renting the houses that the Millionaires and billionaires build through the middle class people savings which the rich borrowed from a bank.

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

Church hospital in Ujjain attacked, nurses beaten up

Ujjain: A group of some 60 people on March 12 forcibly occupied part of a Catholic hospital's land and roughed up nurses and other workers in the central Indian city of Ujjain.

Pushpa Mission Hospital, managed by the Syro-Malabar diocese of Ujjain, has faced trouble for some time after the assistant to the local parliamentarian allegedly used fake documents to claim ownership of part of the hospital property.

"Some 60 masked men armed with cycle chains and pickaxes came with bulldozers around 9 am and broke the front gate of the hospital and fenced off some 2,000 square feet of the hospital land," Father Vineesh Mathew, director of Ishvani, the communication wing of Ujjain diocese, told *Matters India*.

The 146-bed hospital managed by the Syro-Malabar diocese sits adjacent to the bishop's residence in Ujjain, an ancient city in Madhya Pradesh state.

Father Mathew said the intruders beat some nurses and pushed around nuns when they went to check the commotion.

They claimed that a local court has authorized them to occupy the disputed site.

Sacred Heart Sister Elsy Jacob, who works in the hospital, said the intruders beat four nurses and pushed around others, including her, when they went to enquire the commotion.

She said their electricity connection was snapped after the intruders damaged their transformer. "We are operating some sections with the help of a generator," she told *Matters India*.

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Father Mathew said police officials ignored their appeal for help.

Sister Jacob said when they went to the women's police station they were directed to go to the main police station. "When we went there, the officer said he had already sent force for our security. On rushing back we found no police at the hospital," she lamented.

Father Mathew said the local civic body had given the disputed property to the hospital to use as parking area.

He said the attackers were supporters of Gagan Singh, the parliamentarian's assistant, who accuses the Church of illegally occupying the disputed site.

On July 27, Singh came with members of the Bharatiya Janata Party and tried to take over the land. However, the church obtained a "stay order" to maintain the status quo from the Madhya Pradesh state High Court.

Later, the police charged four Catholic priests with rioting after they resisted attempt by Hindu group to take over the hospital.

Church officials say charges against them were framed under political influence.

Tension intensified after revenue officials arrived to measure and demarcate the land. A crowd also claimed a portion of the land.

The hospital has used the land for at least four decades.

Source: MattersIndia

MATRIMONIAL

6822. KUWAIT : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in November 1982), Ht. 5' 4", Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc. Post Graduate in Mumbai University, Teacher in Kuwait. Contact email : pereiralucy2017@yahoo.com Tel: 00965-60402765 / 9867308911



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. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., well employed, working as Sr. Customer Care Executive. 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

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

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

6507 MUMBAI : Mangalorean Ro-

man Catholic Bachelor (Hearing Impaired) (Born in September 1989), Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 62 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. HSC., Dip. in Computer Hardware. Working as a Cashier. Contact email : clifford9948@gmail.com OR 9920331773

6485 MUMBAI: North Indian R.C. Bachelor, (Born in October 1974), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 75 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working for an MNC in Mumbai as Back Office Executive. Contact email : awr88@rediffmail.com

6228. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor (Born in December 1972). Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 65 kgs., Wheatish Complexion, Edn. S.S.C. A/C Tech. Course, working as a A/C Technician in Voltas. Contact email : lawrencedias321@gmail.com / Mob: 8291056939

6172. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in February 1978), Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 86 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Com., Position : Financial Consultant. Seeks a alliance from RC graduate/pst graduate spinster. Contact email: raceangelreb@yahoo.in

6508 MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor (Born in October 1986), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 80 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E.. working as a Asst. Manager in German Company. Seeks a tall, well educated homely Mangalorean girl. Contact email : colind.3010@gmail.com

6833. AUSTRALIA : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in November 1986), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 78 kgs, Fair, Handsome, PR Holder, Edn. Masters by Research in Biotechnology from QUT, Australia, Currently working with reputed company in Quality Assurance dept., Seeking a qualified and God fearing Mangalorean RC girl. Contact email : lizbf2017@gmail.com



6723 MUMBAI : RC Bachelor (42) (Born in October 1974), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 76 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. HSC., own business. Seeking single and simple orphan girl below 35 yrs. Preferably pet lover. Contact email : henriques.nigel@gmail.com OR 9821812507

6515. MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in June 1989), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 64 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. P.G.D.B.M., working as a H.R. Contact email :leo.rglobus@gmail.com

6654 MUMBAI : Mangalorean R.C. Divorcee (Born in October 1980) Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 95 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. Hotel Management, working as Asst. Manager in **CANADA**, seeks an educated, homely, UK bases girl. Contact Email : gladways207@gmail.com OR Mob.: 9930721252

6652 MUMBAI : Mangalorean R.C. Bachelor, (Born in November 1988) Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 80 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.B.A. Marketing, working as an Executive in well known Private Company. Contact email : menezesajit@yahoo.com

6546. MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in December 1987), Ht. 171 cms, Wt. 80 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. HSC., Diploma in Aviation, working for a Foreign Cruise line in USA as a Security Officer Contact email : stayblessed1287@gmail.com

6636. MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in September 1983), Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 80 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E., working as a Technical Lead. Contact email : joy.dominic@gmail.com

com

6544. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in June 1986), Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 80 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., + Diploma, working on Cruise Ship. Contact email : roshandsouza412@yahoo.com

6541. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic, (Born in January 1969), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 80 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. SSC, having own business. Contact email : allwynsequeira@gmail.com

6539. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in February 1982), Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., MBA., working for Bank in **DUBAI**. Seeks a Mangalorean educated, homely girl. Ready to settled in Dubai. Contact email : roshandsouza5in@gmail.com

6650 MUMBAI : Mangalorean R.C. Bachelor, (Born in August 1971) Ht. 5' 11", Edn. Undergraduate, Working as a Asst. Manager in a reputed company in Mumbai seeks alliance from RC Spinster simple & understanding with good family values, Kindly reply with details and photograph. Email : deric.nazareth@rediffmail.com OR Tel.: 9869844097

6648. MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Bachelor (Born in June 1970) Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. 12th Std., working as a AC Mechanic in Abroad. Contact email : vivinacardoza18@gmail.com OR 9987433677

6647. MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Bachelor (Born in January 1982) Ht. 164 cms, Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Engineering, working

as a Sr. Executive. Contact email : pereirapraveen@gmail.com OR 9833379899

6641. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in July 1982), Ht. 6' 1", Wt. 100 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Graduate, working as an Engineer, Contact email : melvinsaldanha20@gmail.com or 9820477618

6553. GERMANY : German Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in August 1980), Ht. 175 cms, Well built, Fair Complexion, Edn. Normal School Cheff. Working as a Cheff. Contact email : evascherrmann@yahoo.de

6626 GOA : Goan RC Bachelor, (Born in March 1970), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 75 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. BL/LLB., Self Employed. Contact email : gdsouza07@yahoo.com

6625 MUMBAI : Goan RC Bachelor, (Born in November 1979), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 61 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Sc., B.ed., Teacher by profession. Contact email : martin.007.2010@gmail.com OR Mob.: 9892657905

6549. MUMBAI : Tamilian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in December 1983), Ht. 5' 10" Wt. 72 kgs, Tan Complexion, Edn. MBA (ICFAI), working as a AVP in Citi Group Chennai. Contact email : ponsil@rediffmail.com

6624 MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Bachelor, (Born in October 1986), Ht. 6', Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Bachelor in Hotel Management, working on Ship. Contact email : roland_dsouza007@yahoo.com

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6809. BAHRAIN : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in May 1983), Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 62 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., Computer, working as a Customer Service in Foreign Bank. Contact email : saldanhairene@hotmail.com

6427. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1985), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E., working as a Sr. Analyst in MNC. Contact email : joe51in@yahoo.co.in

6426. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in August 1989), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 50 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. Bachelors in Physiotherapy, working as a Physiotherapist. Contact email : tracy.veigas89@gmail.com

6808. USA : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in August 1984), Ht. 5' 4", Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E., M.S. (USA), working as an Engineer in USA. Contact email : 1954.tulips@gmail.com

6679. MUMBAI: RC Goan parents seeks matrimonial alliance for their daughter, (Born in November 1989), Ht. 5' 3", slim, attractive personality, B.Tech, MBA from India's premier institutions, senior manager in renowned US based MNC from highly educated, professionally qualified and well-settled Roman Catholic bachelors in India/abroad with good family background and values. Kindly email profile and picture to tsm8759@gmail.com

6678. MUMBAI: Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1990), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 50 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. BE (IT) MBA - Post Graduate Marketing, working as a IT & Financial Consultant. Contact email : md8office-mail@gmail.com

6807. U.S.A. : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in January 1988), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 54 kgs, Wheatish Complexion,

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or Email :
royalchristianfamily@gmail.com

Edn. B.E. Computer Engineering, working as a Software Engineer in California. Preferred someone working in U.S.A. Contact email : celinefrancisdcunha@gmail.com

6806. MANGALORE : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Divocee, (Born in March 1984), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.Sc. Nurse by profession. Contact email : lailasweety143@gmail.com

6703. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in November 1990), 5' 3", Wt. 56 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B. Tech., MBA, Working for MNC. Contact email : proposal2k16@gmail.com

6672. BANGALORE : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1985), Ht. 5' 4", Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBBS, DCH, DNB, Doctor by profession. Seeks Doctors or Engineers. Contact email : bklouis50@gmail.com

6671. MUMBAI: Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in July 1965), Ht. 5', Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. SSC, working as a Co-ordinator, Seeks a suitable match. Contact : 9619392879

6670. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1984), Ht. 5' 4", Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., working as a Flight supervisor, Air Hostess. Contact email : carnations984@gmail.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

6701. MYSORE : Mangalorean Roman

Catholic Divorcee, (Born in May 1983), 5' 2", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA, Ph.D., Assistant Prof., by profession. Contact email : rosecynthia1962@gmail.com

6492. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Born Again Spinster, (Born in May 1987), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 53 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA in Finance, PGDM., working for a co-op. Bank in Mumbai. Contact email : brinliafernandes@yahoo.com

6770. MANGALORE : Mangalorean Roman Catholic spinster, (Born in October 1987), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 52 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBBS, Senior Residential Doctor. Contact email: myname2487@gmail.com

6767. MANGALORE : Mangalorean Roman Catholic spinster, (Born in August 1991), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 80 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.A. (English), Teacher by profession. Contact email : predita1989@gmail.com

6300. GOA : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in August 1982), Ht. 5', Wt. 55 kgs, Fair Complexion, good looking, Edn. SSC., self employed. **Contact email : 4.saviola@gmail.com**

6696. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in August 1991), 5' 1", Wt. 49 kgs, Fair, Edn. MBA - Finance, working as a Finance Executive in **DUBAI**. Contact email : moraes.cheryl@gmail.com

6694. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in August 1991), 5' 4", Wt. 57 kgs, Wheatish, Edn. MBA - Finance, working as a Trade Finance Assistant in **DUBAI**. Contact email : rochellemoraes91@gmail.com

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

6557. BANGALORE : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in August 1989), Ht. 5' 1", Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E., M.S. in California, working in **CALIFORNIA**, Seeks a Post graduate working in **U.S.** below 31 years. Contact email : jwanita@gmail.com OR helen_monis@rediffmail.com

6554. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in May 1987), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 75 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA (HR), Contact email : joaquim-ropose82@gmail.com

6305 MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in October 1985), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 80 kgs, Fair Complexion, Good looking and smart, Edn. B.E. (Electronics), working as a Manager in IT Company. **Contact email : carmina_fernandes@hotmail.com**

6570. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1991), Ht. 5' 3", Wheatish Complexion, Edn. BBI, P.G.D.M. (H.R.), working as an Asst. Manager H.R. Contact email : venita.sal@gmail.com

6569. DUBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in May 1985), Ht. 5' 2", Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA - Finance, working as an Accountant in a private sector firm in DUBAI. Looking for a Roman Catholic alliance preferably working in UAE. Contact email : saldanha.leena7@gmail.com

6502 MUMBAI : Mangalorean R.C. Spinster, Date of Birth 14-5-1983, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Sc. Nursing, working as a ICU Head in Abudhabi - UAE. Military Hospital, Shortly visiting Mumbai. Seeks a well educated having a good job. Contact immediately email : janydz_1484@yahoo.com OR Tel.: 0971 557463484 /

9930076741.

6536 MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1991), Ht. 168cms, Wt. 64 kgs, Beautiful, Fair Complexion, Edn. Master in Dental, studing PG in Doctorate, Dactor by profession. Contact email : kcmcm@gmail.com

6604. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in 29-11-1981), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. S.Y. B.Com., wokring in Dubai. Contact Mob.: 9820733952

6602. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in 2-7-1981), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 68 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., working as a Trainer. Contact email : charlottesimpleindian@hotmail.com

6601. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in 29-3-1989), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 62 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. ICWA, Working for Finance Industry. Contact email : jenniferabreo29@gmail.com

6545. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in October 1989), Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MBA Finance, working as a Financial analysist. Contact email : elveera.26@gmail.com

6600. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in 15-8-1989), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA, working as a HR Executive. Contact email : britto_leena@hotmail.com

6577. MUMBAI : Roman Catholic Divorcee, (Born in April 1989), Ht. 4' 10", Fair Complexion, Beautiful, Edn. Dip. in HM & Bakery, working as a Cashier / Ordertaker. Contact email : nshksp@gmail.com OR 9833845074

6522. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in January 1984), Ht. 5' 6", Fair, Edn. Phd., (Australia), Masters in Pharmacy and PhD in Chemistry and biology. Contact email : ds.charlotte@gmail.com

6517. MUSCAT : Goan R.C. Spinster, (Born in July 1989), Ht. 5' 1", Wt. 52 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MBA in Advertising, BBA in Marketing, working as a Communication Executive. Contact email

: lysandra_dsilva@hotmail.com

6516. MANGALORE : Mangalorean R.C. Spinster, (Born in November 1989), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 52 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E. in Comp. Sc., working as a Software Engineer in **Bangalore**. Contact email : dsouza.sharli@gmail.com

6514. PANVEL : Goan R.C. Spinster, (Born in March 1988), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 52 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.Sc. Life Science & PGD, working as a Research Officer in well known Pharmaceutical company. Contact email : jclid376@rediffmail.com

6513. USA : Mangalorean R.C. Spinster, (Born in May 1985) Parents invite alliance from well educated Mangalorean R.C. Boy under 35 yrs., working in USA., for their spinster daughter 30 years, 5 Ft., Fair Complexion, Edn. : B.E. Working as a Software Engineer. Contact : Email dsouzadoreena@gmail.com

6511. MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Spinster, (Born in November 1990), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 75 kgs, Tan Complexion, Edn. MMS - HR, working as a Jr. Officer HR. Contact email : michelledsouza1990@gmail.com

6509. MUMBAI: Parents invite alliance for their daughter RC, (Born in May 1985), Fair, Pretty, BE, MBA, 5', 45 kgs, working for a reputed MNC in Mumbai from a suitable RC bachelor up to 35 years well educated, caring, understanding, well settled in India or abroad. Kindly email complete details with recent photograph to : elilierica7@gmail.com.

6506. MUMBAI: Roman Catholic Goan Spinster, (Born in July 1990), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 47 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., (B.A.F) Working as Accounts Executive. Contact email id : dcostalarissa@yahoo.co.in

6505. MUMBAI: Mumbai based Mangalorean Roman Catholic parents invite alliance for their Beautiful daughter, (Born in May 1988), fair, smart, M.B.A., working as an Executive. Boy should be well educated, God fearing having good family background. Please contact with photograph & all details to Email: richard.dsouza17@gmail.com

Evangelize The Gospel And Defend The Faith



BY MELVYN BROWN

You don't need a public speaking platform or, to call for a rally; speak about the Gospel in your work place, when you meet with friends, at social events, when picnics are organized, the possibilities are endless. The Word of God is for all to hear and to believe. Jesus said, "...as for you, go and proclaim the Kingdom of God." Luke 9:60.

Testimonies should be documented to establish roots in the faith. Catholic and Christian standards of faith and belief must be relayed from one generation to another, from one friend to another. Spread the trust in God as the apostles did by word of mouth. Saint Paul, the Apostle clearly explained his mission to the Romans in his letter on preaching the faith. "The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart that is, the word of faith which we preach". Romans 10:8.

"You can make a difference," said the ' Christophers' (a Catholic media for the propagation of the Faith). They also have another inspirational phrase, "Light one candle in the darkness." By this we learn that regardless of the odds, we can radiate a holistic person-centered effort to enrich the values of faith in the Gospel.

Recently, we celebrated "World Day of Prayer." It gave people on earth an opportunity to call for God's compassion, for peace, forgiveness of the evil ones, and for humankind to overcome the dark forces viral across the face of the global village. We daily confront a challenge of epic proportion: mass immigration, violence, genocide, fear and hidden crimes of sin and shame; the living threat of annihilation, as in the Middle East with Christians.

Let us share the grace of salvation

which Jesus gave to his Apostles and disciples, within the folds of the body of the Church. May our leaders, teachers and guides of the faith be the prophets for this age and time, bringing into the fold others with charisma poured on them through the Holy Spirit.

God has made salvation a gift to attain for the propagation of the faith in co-operation. To preach the Gospel one must begin with those in towns, cities and the neighborhood. God is a God of mercy, charity, love and truth. Everything in the Bible is open to investigation and all that it reveals is true: from the act of Creation to the fact of God's threefold character in the Holy Trinity as One God forever, the balm of faith.

Christianity in the early years spread the faith by oral Christian holiness. They celebrated the feasts of saints and martyrs through the messages relayed by those from the past. The history and teachings of the young Church focused primarily on the Holy Spirit and the fruits it would bear in wisdom, and grace in the courage of prophets, mystics and saints.

In the early years Christians suffered a battered and bruised faith. Yet, the Church survived and so did the Christians, growing in great numbers across the world. Today, we need to build vocations to the religious life and for good priests to serve the faithful, to preach the Gospel and defend the faith. This reminds me of what Christopher West said, "All the hungers we have for love, for union, for happiness are given by God to lead us to him. The difference between a saint and the greatest sinner is where they go to satisfy that hunger". The Gospel opens up the doors to salvation. The Gospel teaches us how to defend faith by trust and belief.

Preach the Gospel through lessons given by the Church. It is often a very challenging task to bear. Prayers can help us to take up "the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God, and to put on the helmet of salvation." Eph.6:17.

Be the vessel to defend and help faith rise from the ashes. This is possible when you preach, talk, or simply listen to what others have to say. "Faith is to believe, on the word of God, what we do not see, and its reward is to see and enjoy what we believe." St. Augustine.

In the Acts of the Apostles we read about Peter who would visit homes of the pagans, sharing the Gospel and baptizing them. Recently Pope Francis said, "The Spirit is a gift of God, of this God our Father who always surprises us."

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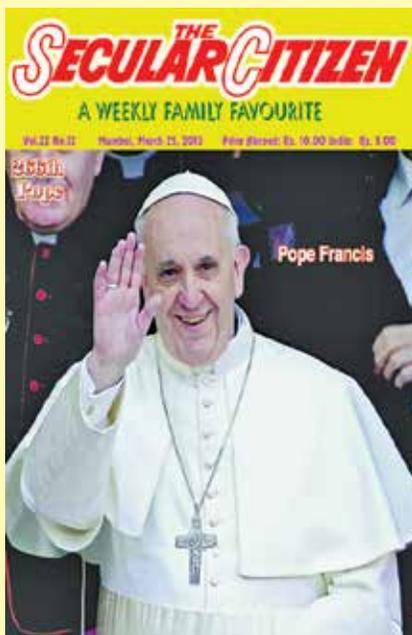
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