

THE SECULAR CITIZEN

A NATIONAL FAMILY WEEKLY

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- * People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centered. Forgive them anyway.
- * If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.
- * If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies. Succeed anyway.
- * If you are honest and sincere people may deceive you. Be honest and sincere anyway.
- * What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight. Create anyway.
- * If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous. Be happy anyway.
- * The good you do today, will often be forgotten. Do good anyway.
- * Give the best you have, and it will never be enough. Give your best anyway.
- * In the final analysis, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway.

The version found written on the wall in Mother Teresa's home for children in Calcutta

Western Region Journalists Meet At Nadiad

Ahmedabad: Ahmedabad Bishop Most Rev Thomas Ignatius Macwan inaugurated a two-day Western regional convention organised by the Indian Catholic Press Association in collaboration with the Gujarat Christian Press Council at Ahmedabad Diocesan Pastoral Center in Nadiad, 48 k.m. away from here.

Among those who addressed the convention are ICPA President Fr Alfonso Elengikal, GCPC president Fr Anton Macwan, GCPC vice-president, Dr KP Rajbharti, senior journalists Ignatius Dabhi, Fr Varghese Paul, Shaliesh Chrestie and Ashok Parmar.



About 40 journalists from Gujarat and Maharashtra representing ICPA and GCPC attended the convention.

Various issues and topics concerning the community and the nation are discussed in the two day session. Journalists and writers present have expressed their opinion. It was an excellent opportunity to meet and interact with journalists of two states Maharashtra and Gujarat.

This is for the first time that ICPA organised a convention of this kind in Gujarat.

—Jose Vincent K.J., Secretary, ICPA



SECULAR CITIZEN

Due to steep rise in cost of various inputs like paper, printing, transport, etc. for publishing this periodical we had to revise the subscription and per copy cost of **The Secular Citizen**, from 2nd April 2015 :
Price for single copy will be Rs. 10

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Thought for the week

Let us touch the dying, the poor, the lonely and the unwanted according to the graces we have received and let us not be ashamed or slow to do the humble work. —Mother Teresa

Contents

- pg. 3 - Missionaries of Charity Order Answers
- pg. 4 - Bhagwat's Derogatory Statement
- pg. 5 - The Futility of Being No.1
- pg. 6 - Religious Conversion
- pg. 7 - Reader's Views
- pg. 8 - Swach Bharat: Clean ...
- pg. 9 - Mohan Bhagwat Questions...
- pg 10 - Ch
- pg 11 - The Indian Railways ...
- pg. 14 - Story of The Real-life Rapunzel Girl
- pg 16 - "Is God With Us?"
- pg 17 - The Easter Triangle
- pg 18 - Controversy about Mother Teresa
- pg 13 - Inspiration!
- pg 20 - Matrimonials
- pg 22 - Why, to many Critics ...
- pg 23 - Finance For New Investor

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Missionaries Of Charity Order Answers

Kolkata – A day after RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat said that conversion to Christianity was the main objective behind Mother Teresa's service to the poor, the Missionaries of Charity said that over 90 percent of those its 745 homes across the world and 19 in Kolkata cater to are non-Christians.

"There were 745 Mother Teresa homes across the world and 19 in Kolkata. Over 90 percent of all those who are treated at these homes are non-Christians," spokesperson Sunita Kumar said, reported The Indianexpress.

Claiming that Bhagwat was misinformed, she added: "Among the Kolkata homes, Nirmal Hriday in Kalighat, Prem Dan near Park Circus railway station and Shanti Daan in Tangra are the prominent ones. When children are abandoned at hospitals and come to these homes, they are told about the faith they belong to. Only if abandoned children are found on the streets and their religion cannot be determined, they are raised as Christians."

"Mother Teresa was beyond any religion and even till today, people from all religions come to Mother House to seek blessings... I don't know what made him (Bhagwat) say this," she said.

The Archbishop of Kolkata, Thomas D'Souza, said he was in talks with several organisations so that a protest rally can be held soon against Bhagwat's remarks.

"We cannot let anyone malign Mother Teresa's image and get away with it. We will come up with a programme in a day or two," he said.

Reacting to Bhagwat's remarks, he said: "The eye which has jaundice sees a yellow world. I am not surprised because it is the agenda of people like Bhagwat to spread hatred. I am sad as someone who has worked with Mother Teresa. The allegation is totally baseless. Had it been the case, all children, elderly, ailing and physically and mentally challenged people who Mother served, would have become Christians. That should be proof enough."

"After they targeted churches in Delhi they have targeted Mother Teresa with a definite motive. He has the audacity to say this about the person who is revered across the world. We strongly condemn it. It is not only an insult to Mother Teresa but to all who looked up to her," he added.

When contacted, Sister Deena at Mother House said that Sister Prema — Superior General of the Missionaries of Charity — has instructed them not to react to Bhagwat's comments.

Bhagwat's Derogatory Statement



BY CHHOTEBHAI

Mohan Bhagwat, head honcho of the RSS, has termed Mother Teresa's services as motivated by her desire to convert the beneficiaries to Christianity, thereby diluting their value. This statement is not just derogatory; it is in fact defamatory and deliberately provocative. The RSS is not known to make random statements. While accusing Mother Teresa of a "hidden agenda" Bhagwat actually finds three fingers pointed at himself.

I have been closely associated with Mother Teresa and her organization, the "Missionaries of Charity" from 1967, and personally interacted with her on several occasions. I quite literally found God in her – in the light in her eyes and the intensity of her quiet prayers. Mother Teresa lived a relatively comfortable life in the Loreto Convent, Calcutta (as it was then called), to move out on the streets of the city to care for its destitute. Her shelter, Nirmal Hriday, is located at Kolkata's famous Kali Ghat. I am not aware of the RSS doing a similar service at that place, sacred to the Hindus; nor at Varanasi, Mathura, Haridwar etc.

A story about Mother would best negate Bhagwat's obnoxious statement. Apparently Mother was once attending to a destitute whose flesh was putrid and the smell nauseous. An observer said that he would not do that if he were offered a million rupees; to which the Mother had famously replied, "For money, nor would I; but for the love of Jesus, yes". Selfish people

cannot understand selfless service. They look for an ulterior motive or vested interest in everything. Yes, Mother Teresa was motivated, or rather inspired by the Lord Jesus. Jesus had emphatically stated that the ultimate proof of righteousness lay not in long prayers or religious rituals, but rather as he said "Whatsoever you do to the least of my brethren you do unto me". That is why Mother Teresa unabashedly and often stated that she saw the

periences. Once a young man strayed into my former house on the Mall Road. He was nude, with festering sores. People wanted to chase the "mad man" away. I heard the sound and reached out to him, giving him first aid and cleaning his wounds. Later Mother Teresa's sisters from Snehalaya, Chandari, came and picked him up. After being restored to health he was returned to his family in Unnao. His name was Anand, obviously a Hindu.



Mother Teresa's Nishkama Karma

Those who accuse Mother Teresa of using her service to the poor to make conversions to Christianity, will find, if they acquaint themselves with all those she lived and worked with, that she was truly an embodiment of the 'nishkama karma' (selfless service, expecting nothing in return), which the Bhagavad Gita so eloquently preaches. The only conversions she really made, were to this noble ideal of 'nishkama karma' to the poorest of the poor among her hundreds of followers and millions of admirers worldwide. Isn't this something all of us ought to strive to imitate, especially those who revere the Gita?

—Joseph M. Dias, S.J.,
Andheri (E).

face of Jesus in the poor to whom she ministered. She worked for leprosy patients at a time when the disease was still highly infectious. She started hospices for AIDS patients when nobody dared touch them. I wonder why the RSS didn't undertake such tasks, instead of pointing fingers at Mother Teresa?

Let me give you two personal ex-

Similarly I had found a young man lying on the GT Road, nude, covered in blood and dust. I put him in my car and took him to Snehalaya. He too recovered and was returned to his family in Fazilka on the Pakistan border. Far from "converting" the destitute, the sisters actually try to locate the families of such persons, and reunite them. At Snehalaya, if a destitute dies he or she has her last rites performed according to the individual's religious persuasion. For Muslims the mosque in nearby Sujatganj is contacted.

I wonder if Bhagwat and his ilk have ever ministered with their own hands to those who have been totally abandoned by society, often in inhuman conditions? Bhagwat should learn to practice what he preaches. Mother Teresa never preached, she just practiced what she sincerely believed. I salute her memory and invite all persons of goodwill, regardless of religion, to emulate her selfless service.

—Chhotebhai Noronha
President
Kanpur Catholic Association

The Futility Of Being No 1

by Francis Lobo

My 80 years of existence and hard experience has given me the authority to criticize the policies and decisions of those in power. I am forced to speak out against the current developments. The first is the renewed emphasis on nuclear energy. When the rest of the world is moving away to alternate forms of energy, whom are we trying to please by taking this route? Shale as an alternative to oil was known 50 years ago. But USA, after the first oil shock didn't take this route as they thought nuclear energy was a cheaper and cleaner option. After the nuclear tragedies around the world, shale has got its rightful place in the energy spectrum bringing oil prices down in 2015 to half of what it was.

Why can't India concentrate on alternate energy like solar and bio-mass? When I started my career as an engineer we worked on the concept of using bagasse, the waste left after sugar is extracted from the cane, as the energy source for the sugar mills. The waste became as valuable as the juice. Bio-mass, if effectively managed, can boost the agricultural economy while meeting our energy needs.

The second thrust that doesn't match with my experience is this idea of being No 1 in Defense Production. Rajiv Gandhi too had the idea of making India the dominant power in South East Asia. He couldn't even get the LTTE to behave and lost his life in the process. The Nazis had a similar vision of capturing land and resources from the neighboring countries to give the German people a better life. The

ambition brought destruction not only to the German people but to the entire world. Being No 1 is a tenet of the Celebrity Culture, where the winner takes all. Crores are paid to a celebrity for an appearance or performance because she attracts the crowds and draws in hefty profits. This culture results in 1 % of the world population owning 50 % of the world's wealth. The words "Imperial", "Military" "Army" have since been replaced by the term "Defense" as today no country wants to be seen as an aggressor, a conqueror with imperialist tendencies out to subjugate others.

We don't want to be the No 1 Importer of Defense Equipment. We don't have to be. Our defense expenditure is because we do not have good relations with our neighbors. A progressive foreign policy should be aimed at Banning War and diverting the defense expenditure to development in the region. After WWII Japan consciously took the route of peace and has prospered immensely.

The P.M. boasts that the new thrust on "Make in India" for defense will create over a lakh of high tech jobs. Indians will no longer need to go abroad for high paying and satisfying work. Shouldn't the high-tech talent available be used to meet the needs of this country like energy, food, medical care, housing, poverty, nutrition? No doubt investment in Defense Research ultimately trickles down and helps society like the Internet, which was initially set up for defense applications. But we can cut the cycle short by investing directly in civil projects. It is six months since the launch of the Keep India Clean Campaign was launched on Independence

Day. We have nothing on the ground to show for it. High sounding rhetoric and sound bites must be replaced by application of science and technology. High-tech is required for waste recycling, water conservation, storage and recovery, sewage treatment and sanitation, generating wealth from waste, reducing wastage in packaging.

Being a Super Power in Defense brings with it the temptation to use this power which would be dangerous and suicidal. We don't have to compete with China. We have the challenging task to give a better life to 1.25 billion citizens of this country. There is no virtue in aiming to be No. 1.

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Religious Conversion

1. Mr. Bhagwat – you said Mer. Teresa was engaged in conversion. Evidence, please. In the court of public opinion/ law, proof is paramount.
2. Mer. Teresa needs no certification from anyone – least of all from you / the RSS.
3. If Christian educational/ medical / relief / charitable services are a cover for conversion, how come we are still just a measly 2.3% of the Indian population ,after so many centres and so many centuries ?
4. And if your allegation is true, why is there such a RUSH for admission to our Institutions ??
5. You should know that conversion is not possible-especially not by force (horse and water) Besides, how to ensure the neophytes stay converted ? It takes 1-2 years before the church confers Baptism into the fold. Conversion is a matter of faith, not of compulsion.
6. If you are concerned about your straying flock, tend to their needs instead of targeting alleged 'sheep stealers'.
7. Two members of my family have inter-married. They profess their own faith, celebrate each other's festivals, visit each other's houses of worship. Solid marriages.
8. The Church in India commemorates January 30, and

Gandhiji's message of unity in diversity, by holding Inter-Faith meets. Conversion ?

9. If you are ever in Bandra, do visit Shanti Avedna ,our hospice for ALL the terminally ill. It has a prayer room with symbols of different Faiths !
10. Mr. Bhagwat, – your remarks do a disservice to a great Religion (Hinduism) to our great secular democratic Nation, besides undermining the Indian government's development agenda. Do not seek to divide and rule –rather let us ALL INDIANS , unite and prosper . Christ said : Father, forgive them for they

know not what they do “. Today, we forgive you and your ilk even though YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU ARE DOING !

And my fellow Christians, expect much more of this in the days /years to come. We live in an intolerant ,violent world. See how the ISIS is torturing / slaughtering the innocents. Jesus never promised us a rose garden. Indeed He said that if we wish to be His disciple, we should take up our cross and follow him. He led by example and what's more thought it well worth while to do so. Are we up to the challenge ?

—Bernie Tellis

THANKSGIVING



St Jude, Holy Spirit, St. Joseph, Sacred Heart of Jesus, St. Antony, Divine Mercy, Our Lady of Perpetual Succor, Our Lady of Valenkani.

Thanks for special favours granted.

— E.M. (Isaacs)
Vasai West

Secularism Eroded

The recent conversion charges levelled against Mother Teresa by RSS supremo Mohan Bhagwat, besides shaming the nation, has sent a strong signal to the people of the country that anyone undertaking social work for the upliftment of the destitute, the down-trodden and the marginalised of society will necessarily have to be devoid of any religious affiliation, for his/her work to be appreciated and free of conversion charges. It is sad that a political twist has been given to denigrate a Nobel peace prize winner and the recipient of the Nations highest honour the 'Bharat Ratna', whose work for the poor has become the yardstick by which millions measure compassion and generosity across religious and political divides. It is sad that our secular Constitution of equal respect for all religions is also being slowly but surely eroded and changed to a new brand of atheistic secularism which is practised in some western countries. Can we now boast of being an inclusive society and a multi-religious nation with a glorious past civilization of religious tolerance and unity in diversity which is the hallmark of our national culture and national integration?

—A. F. Nazareth,
Alto Porvorim.



Parish Priests should harness collective support -

It was encouraging to read Fr. Anil Rego's 'Open Letter' (SC/16 February, 2015), on page 6.

Today, even a Face Book 'Like' can attract 'Open' prominence.

The letter was published along with Dr. Leo Rebello's article 'I am no NAMO fan' on Page 16 in the same issue.

As Dr. Leo Rebello resides in the same area, it would not be illogical for Fr. Anil Rego, Parish Priest, Kandivli, to mobilize parochial support in tandem with Dr. Leo Rebello on civic & political issues.

—Denis Khan

Railway Budget 2015

The Railway Budget 2015, presented today by the Hon'ble Minister Mr. Subhash Prabhu, has given, so called cosmetic presentation, as more thrust is given to the Railway traveler's comfort with an attention on cleanliness & modern toilet facilities, without a hike in railway ticket/passenger fare.

The railway Minister, is hoodwinking the railway traveler's by saying no passenger fare has increased. In the last budget, the booking could be done 2 month's in advance & now it will be 4 month's in advance. That means, the

passenger has to block money for 4 months to travel to any destination in advance. This 2 month's period the railway is going to fetch interest at the cost of railway passengers.

Secondly, if a family wants to go for a tour, then they have to pay 4 months in advance to the hotelier's and for transport. The Transport owner's will not give the rate because of the petrol & diesel prices are not constant all the time, The restaurant owner's will not give the rate because the oil, cereal & vegetable prices are not steady.

Thirdly, the students do not know when their Exams will get over and when their holiday's will start.

Fourthly, the working parents do not know whether they will get leave or not because no employer what will happen in 4 month's period.

As there is heavy rush for Jammu Tawi, as people are going to Kashmir and most of the Hindus going to Vaishnodevi & Amarnath Yathra for pilgrimage. There is a heavy rush for the train. It is sad the Hindu party BJP didn't think about starting super fast train to the place. But they want to start super speed train from Mumbai to Ahmadabad with its ridiculous & waste of money. Even there are no Super Fast train running from Mumbai to Thiruvananthapuram (Trivandram). Nor do they have local trains, with the result the local workers enter into reserved compartments & create problem to the genuine ticket holders

—Herbert D. Barretto,
Wadala

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Swach Bharat: Clean India

versus

Swach Bhartiya: Clean Indian

by **Alexander Ekka, S.J.**,
St. Xavier's School, Baramkela,
Raigarh, Chhattisgarh

Credit goes to Prime Minister Modi who has initiated innovative scheme of Swach Bharat all over India. Congratulations! Media has covered extensively the photographs of many politicians with brooms and spades cleaning up the roads and the drainages etc in many important cities. BJP rule Chhattisgarh the political parties and the government machinery looks serious about the cleaning movement. Many government establishments like hospitals, railway department Mantralaya, Collectorate, educational departments, public sectors etc. look neat and clean.

Social evil is one of the biggest cancers in India which has eaten up the Indian society. In one of the international surveys India ranks 85 positions in corruption. An honest citizen of India will agree that corruption exists like a cancerous disease in all the government and non government departments of India. This is against the spiritual ethos of the sacred Indian culture.

There are different kinds of corruption existing in India. I would like to focus on one type of corruption which is ingrained in all the Indian departments. That is bribery. Bribery is one of the most ignominious social evils that have crept in to the social fabric of the most sacred Indian society. All Indians are undergoing suffocations and unpleasant experiences of bribery at different levels in all walks of life. I would like to cite a few instances of bribery in my own life. It was a frustrating experience while I was handling a land case in the court for which I forwarded all the documents required. Every time I was summoned, persons from top to bottom demanded money to pass on the file

from one table to another. I did submit a good sum of money to move my files to other tables of the officials since I needed to finish off the case within a given time frame. Meantime I got transferred. The court case is settled after long years of harrowing

experience. Another case was in a most prestigious government hospital where I took a very serious patient for a checkup. I had to stand in a queue early morning at around 6.00 a.m. behind more than one hundred people standing in front of me to get an OPD card. My snacks and lunch hours were spent in the line waiting for my turn to come. By the time I reached almost close to the window the counter was closed in the evening. I had to sleep on the floor in front of the counter in the line for the next day. My patient meantime was fighting for life and death in the lodge. Next day morning around 11.00 a.m. I managed to get the OPD card. Ordeal did not stop here. When visited, doctor advised to undergo 15 kinds of checkups. For each check up, the patient had to bribe good sum to all the intermediaries in the cabins. Check up was over but the doctor prescribed a list of medicine which I had to purchase only in his medical shop another 30 Km from the

hospital. It took me 4 days to travel and 4 days of stay for medical checkup. The doctor advised the patient to visit him again after a month. Frustrating indeed. The patient died after one month. Another instance is of education department where I applied for recognition of our school. Recognition of the school was granted but after a good sum of money invested for the intermediaries from lower level table to the upper tables in the office.

These were some of the unpleasant common experiences which the ordinary citizens of our country are undergoing. This disgusting phenomenon is very embarrassing and painful to all of

us. The government machinery is aware of such malpractices in all the departments without any exception all over India. Such practices exist because the mind of the people is vitiated. No holy scripture of our religions which we Indians vow to practice approves such malicious practices. The minds of the people are contaminated due to social milieu which has to be eradicated. Corrupt mind will bring out corrupt results. We cannot expect good results from the rotten mind set up. This kind of rotten mind will never be helpful in any case in the sustainable development of our country.

We need to redefine the movement of Swach Bharat. We need Swach Indians with swach Indian mind more than Swach Bharat. For this all the citizens of India will have to play a big role to take a bold step. We need to clean up the corrupt Indian minds before we need to clean demographic infrastructure of Indian establishments. Definitely we can make in India. I humbly request the intelligentsia, the bureaucrats and the political leaders of the country to make a blue print at the national level to inculcate a culture of honesty, truthfulness, patriotism, secularism, spiritual, moral and ethical values in to the minds of our coming young generation.

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Mohan Bhagwat Questions Mother Teresa's Altruism

Salute to SC Christians

Mohan Bhagwat, the chief of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), is back to making news again, and yes, for another wrong reason! On Monday, while addressing a gathering at a village near Bharatpur, Bhagwat said, "Mother Teresa's service would have been good. But it used to have one objective, to convert the person, who was being served, into a Christian." As expected, this comment from the RSS chief stoked another round of controversy, sparking out debates on the issue of conversions and "ghar-wapsi."

This is definitely not the first time that Mohan Bhagwat has come up with a controversial statement at a public gathering. It hasn't been long since his last contentious statement which revolved around the issue of rapes in the country. According to him, rapes were prevalent mostly in the urban areas of the nation and not the rural ones. Rapes, Bhagwat said, were the consequence of western influence and happened only in India and not "Bharat."

It is, rather, ironical for the RSS chief to make a statement against Mother Teresa and analyzing her charity work. If he calls her philanthropy a façade that concealed her motive to convert people to Christianity, what would he call the RSS and VHP agenda of "ghar-wapsi" or reconversion of people into Hinduism?

Bhagwat has been, fervently, advocating for Hindutva. As per him, the remedy to all ills lies nowhere else but Hindutva. Always against the West he had once said, "Whenever we have parted ways from our culture and got disunited, we have been enslaved. It took us time to re-unite to throw away British yoke." This time around, he compared the NGO (that organized the meeting) to Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity, saying that, "The question is not about conversion but if this (conversion) is done in the name of service, then that service gets devalued." He eulogized the NGO, adding, "But here (at the NGO), the objective is purely service of poor and helpless people."

It is, but obvious, that such a statement would attract much rebuke from all around! Right on cue, everybody began pouring their disappointment at Bhagwat's comments. "She left her country and spent her life to provide service to the poor. It is really a very unfortunate statement," Ashok Gehlot, former Chief Minister said, referring to Mother Teresa. Arvind Kejriwal urged the RSS chief to spare her in a tweet this morning, saying, "I worked with Mother Teresa for a few months at Nirmal Hriday ashram in Kolkata. She was a noble soul. Please spare her."

"Mother Teresa's only motive was to serve the poor. Through all my years with her, I have not experienced or seen any kind of conversion. I am a Sikh," said Ms. Kumar, who started working with Mother Teresa in 1965.

—Sangeeta Purkayastha

Recent Supreme court verdict 'Christians who reconvert as Hindu schedule caste will get quota benefits' has only ratified the existing constitutional law without saying anything new. A week ago, this was highlighted in the news with 'Ghar wapsi' as the background. Indian Christians comprise of a large % of SC Christians who are very much aware of the discrimination made on the basis of Religion in violation of Article 15 (1).

They are aware of the fact that if reconverted to their original religion, i.e. the religion to which his/her parents or earlier generation belonged to, this will avail them all the constitutional benefits. Today, there are thousands of SC Christians who have remained faithful to their Christian faith despite their low social, educational and economical background and have refused to fall prey to this enticement. I salute them! SC Catholics in the Archdiocese of Bombay may roughly consists 20 to 30 % or more of the total catholic population and they are mainly from Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Nagar ?. There are no local SC Catholics in the Archdiocese.

Around the nation these faithful face three types of discrimination firstly, from the community they are converted; secondly, from their religious community they are converted from and lastly but most importantly from the Government.

In Mumbai the Church has a vital role to play to make these SC community members feel not discriminated. There can be a possibility of these people shunned out when it comes to participation in the liturgy, cultural programmes, parish representation at the parish council. As Christians we should keep in mind that all of us are converted and so it is not they and we, but US that will give the strength to grow, bringing meaning to our Christian unity.

— **Fr. Calistus Fernandes**
Our Lady of Fatima Church
Karjat (Next to Karjat Rly Station)
Raigad District
Maharashtra India

Freed Jesuit arrives in Tamil Nadu



Chennai: Jesuit Father Alexis Prem Kumar, who was in Taliban custody for nearly nine months, arrived in the Chennai airport Wednesday evening to an emotional reunion with friends and relatives.

The 47-year-old priest thanked the Tamil Nadu government and the people in his native state of Tamil Nadu for their efforts to secure his release from captivity in Afghanistan, reports The Times of India.

Fr Kumar, who was kidnapped on June 2, 2014, was released on February 22. He was staying in the Ashoka Hotel, Delhi, as a government guest for the past three days.

At the Chennai airport relatives rushed to him and hugged him after breaking the police cordon.

"I thank the Tamil Nadu government and the people in the state for their prayers and efforts to secure my release," the priest told the waiting media, adding, "I will meet you at Loyola College at 11:30am tomorrow and answer your questions."

He arrived in Chennai from Mumbai, where he briefed Jesuit provincials from South Asia who were having their annual meeting. He had left for Mumbai from Delhi Wednesday morning.

Fr Kumar, hailing from Devakottai in Sivaganga district, was working with Jesuit Refugee Service in the Herat province of Afghanistan when he was abducted by the alleged Taliban militants.

The priest's release was secured after it was pursued at the highest level by India, the external affairs ministry has said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday called up Fr Kumar's family to inform his release. Later, he tweeted: "Delighted at securing the release of Indian Jesuit priest Father Kumar from captivity in Afghanistan."

Former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa had sought the prime minister's intervention for the priest's safe release, and Modi had assured her that the Centre would spare no effort to get Fr Kumar released from captivity.

God's Priceless Treasure

The Bible, God's Word is full of comfort and guidance. It is God's love letter to us. In Isaiah 43: Vr 4, God says "You are precious to me and I love you." Further in verses 18-19, God comforts us by saying, "Do not dwell on the past events, or remember the things of old. Look I am doing a new thing."

Even though we may not have chosen our Lord, He is the one who first loved us. In John 15:16, Jesus says, "You did not choose me; it was I who chose you and sent you to go and bear much fruit, fruit that will last." Not only has The Lord chosen us, He has a plan and a purpose for each of our lives. In Jeremiah 29:11-14, The Lord says "For I know what plans I have for you, plans for peace and not for disaster, plans to give you hope and a future. When you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will listen to you. When you seek me, you will find me; and when you search for me with all your heart I will let you find me."

The Bible is full of God's promises telling us that He knows exactly what we are going through and that He is always there for us. In Isaiah 43: 1-3, He says "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; when you pass through the rivers they will not sweep you away. When you walk through fire, you will not be burned, nor will the flames consume you. For I am The Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour." Isn't it wonderful that our awesome God knows each of us by name and calls us by our names? In Isaiah 49: 15-16, He says, "Can a woman forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child of her womb? Even if these were to forget, I will not forget you. See I have written your name upon the palms of my hands." Psalm 139 says, wherever we go, God is there. Vr 7-10 is as follows, "Where else could I go from your Spirit? Where could I flee from your presence? You are there if I ascend the heavens; you are there if I descend to the Underworld. If I ride on the wings of the dawn and settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand shall guide me and your right hand shall hold me safely."

Our great God cares for us so much that in Mt 10:30 He says, "But even the hairs of your head are all numbered." God cares for every detail of our lives. In Psalm 56:8, the Psalmist says, "You have a record of my laments; my tears are stored in your flask. Are they not written in your record?"

In John 10:10 The Lord says, "I have come that you may have life and have it in abundance."

My friends we can all have this abundant life if we meditate on God's word everyday. If we soak ourselves in the word of God we will bear fruit that will last. So let's read the Bible in our family gatherings and speak it to our children and our children's children. Let the word of God reign supreme in our hearts !

—Sunita Valladares

The Indian Railways And The Common Man

The Railway Minister's [RM] speech on the Railway Budget was more like a Management Laundry List of what is to be done, an integrated plan of action, rather than how the operations are to be improved and changed. That he got 20,000 suggestions for what is to be done is not a surprise considering



the age, extensive network, diversity and complexity involved. The thrust in this budget should have been on how to improve the Operating Ratio to even below 0.8 so that money is available for depreciation, new investment and debt servicing.

One big threat which was not addressed was the impact of the next 7th Pay Commission. There were no ideas on how to improve Employee Productivity through Job Enlargement and Job Enrichment. When railway employees were brought under the Bonus Act the pious wish was that bonus would be linked to improvement in productivity. Nothing has been done — Nothing whatsoever. There are a large number of ways in which incentives and bonus can be linked to performance — reduce turnaround time, multi-tasking, reduce wagon loading and unloading time, cleanliness, wastage reduction, project completion ahead of schedule, cost savings, reduce maintenance and down time, safety record.

The way to speed up trains the R.M. said was by doubling, trebling, having four lanes. Why don't we use the IT skills to closely monitor rail scheduling and movements? If single runways can handle aircraft taking off and landing every 30 seconds why can't innovations be attempted on the

railways like pulling slow and good trains into wayside stations so that fast trains can zip through. Why can't double decker coaches be introduced on all local trains like the double decker buses in the metros to reduce over-crowding? It would be better than people travelling on the top of the coaches.

I have always advocated that rail movement is a more effective way of moving freight than road transport. The road transport has a very powerful lobby in the manufacturers of vehicles, the road

by Francis Lobo

construction business, the truckers, etc. Through propaganda they have effectively painted a picture where we have come to believe that the railways have gone to the dogs — crumbling rail tracks, dirty coaches, rusty and unpainted bogies, filthy stations, low safety. Those who are regular travelers on the railways know these are wild exaggerations yet they are commonly accepted. In fact most of the passenger amenities mentioned in the new budget were already existing and these have only been enhanced. Internet connections and plug points for recharging cell phones and other electronic devices were in existence for many years.

A big cost of the railways is maintenance. The R.M. talked about moving

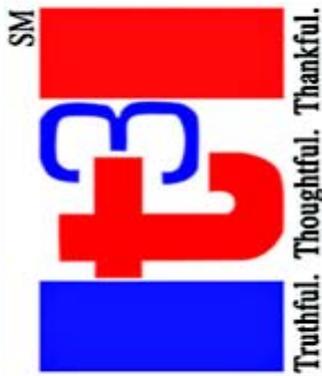
from Preventive Maintenance to Predictive Maintenance. This should be converted to targets for reduction in breakdowns, lost and maintenance time and costs. Technology is now available for salvaging, rebuilding, recovery of high cost spares which could save thousands of crores of rupees and add to employment opportunities. Bringing down costs

by 5 % every year so as to reduce the impact of inflation should be a normal goal for any running organization.

With the talent available, an organization like the railway research organization, and our high tech educational institutions we should aim for major breakthroughs. Fuel efficiency is a major area for attention. There are optimum speeds which give the best efficiency, The wastages in idle running can be controlled by IT systems. Engine design is still the key. Automobile manufacturers are continuously working to improve fuel efficiency. Fuel efficiencies have increased by several orders of magnitude since the days of Henry Ford. Similarly, the conversion of electricity to light and other forms has dramatically increased since the time of Thomas Edison's incandescent lamp.

Since the R.M. could generate 20,000 suggestions during his interactions with people around the country why does he not tap this power through a Railway Improvement Suggestion Scheme where people are rewarded and recognized for ideas which are feasible, implemented and result in tangible benefits. A bottom up approach involving the common man would be a good beginning in Indian Democracy.





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Story Of The Real-life Rapunzel Girl

A real-life Rapunzel girl who cut her hair for the first time has given her family the fairytale home they always dreamed of. Natasha Moraes de Andrade, 12, wept as her 1.6m mane was sheared for the first time ever. But now she says it has given her a new life.

Natasha, who lives in a shanty town in Rio de Janeiro, was previously unable to do things enjoyed by other children such as going to the beach.

It took four hours every week to wash her hair and an hour and a half to brush every day, and made her life a misery. Now she has had it all hacked off into a simple bob of



just 40cm long, and washing her hair only takes five minutes. And while Natasha previously slept in a tiny, windowless room, she got B\$9,000 (about £3,000) from selling the hair for extensions which she has put towards a new home for her family.

'I cried at first when I was at the hairdressers to get it cut,' she says.

'I was afraid I wouldn't like it, and I was also scared I might not get the money I wanted for it.

'Getting it cut has given me a new life. I used to be afraid every time I went out that someone would grab my hair or try to cut it off, but now I can do a lot of things which I couldn't do before.

'Now I'm having cycling lessons, and I've got my freedom back. I much prefer it. I want to learn English and Spanish, and I've been able to go to the beach and swim without being afraid of getting my hair wet.'

It was an emotional moment for the rest of Natasha's family too.

Her mother Catarina said: 'I never put her under pressure to get it cut, but she was like a prisoner and wanted to do the things other girls her age do.

'It has given me back some freedom as I used to spend so much time looking after her hair.'

The family is now able to switch the fan on in the house, something previously impossible as Natasha's

5ft2in hair would get caught in it.

Natasha had never cut her hair since she was a baby, and others complimented her on her mane of thick, chestnut hair.

Now it is as long as it was when she was just four years old.

The family now plans to build a new house in the same shanty town, this time with a room for Natasha with windows which will be fit for a princess.

She may have short hair now but Natasha's old fame as Rapunzel continues at school where everyone still uses the nickname.

'I thought it would stop when I had it cut, but people still stop me in the street. If I had a daughter of my own, she would also be a princess, but she would be Snow White, not Rapunzel. That would be much more practical,' she said

Thanksgiving



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

—Mrs Blossom S, Noronha, Kuwait

(As the Diocese focuses this year on EUCHARIST & FAMILY, this write-up about a yearly unique event of our family is shared to spread the good news that the christian family is the Joy of the Gospel even today)

Dr. Sharon Pande

It was a brisk morning on 30th November, with a tint of winter, our family gathered to celebrate the 40th year of our family picnic, **yes, the 40th year!**

A brief recap down memory lane - It was in 1974 when few of our uncles, (descendants of Custodio and Blandino of Quitla, Aldona – Goa) decided to commence the family reunion in order to meet the cousins and their families once a year. Initially it was a simple affair, but, as the years have flown by, the fun and grandeur at the picnics have increased. The locations for the picnic have been near and far either at Mumbai, Lonavala or Goa.

The motto of the family is fellowship, caring and sharing. The annual picnic is a time to celebrate the year long caring and sharing that happens amongst the family members. Reaching out to the ones in need has been an important ingredient of our

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Celebrating Family

Ruby Picnic of The Pereira Family

love and fellowship. It is also an occasion to welcome new members into the family and fondly remember those who have returned to the Lord. It offers an opportunity for those overseas to meet the family.

This year 80 plus family members gathered at Samara Gardens, Madh Islands to celebrate 40 years of togetherness. The committee members chalk out the day very carefully, so that the entire day is choc a block with games, contests, spot prizes and loads of prizes too. The day starts early in the morning with a sumptuous breakfast and then proceeds to divide the family into groups for various games and activities.

Every year the committee carefully plans a dress code for the picnic and this year being the Ruby celebrations, the dress code was 'red'. Every family member was requested to dress in red outfits and also adorn themselves in a creative 'red' accessory. The best dressed folks won prizes. The morning session started with a couple of games, all games were creatively centered around the theme 'Ruby, 40 years and Red'. It was then followed by Mass at the Madh Church. After the Mass there was a cake cutting ceremony – the cake again carefully designed had the family tree, this was immediately followed by a photograph session where every member was given red balloons. The noon session commenced with a Ruby housie, followed by lunch and then some brain teasers. The early evening session continued with games



for all age groups.

The later part of the evening proceeded with a Ruby talent show - where family members dressed as cartoon characters, danced, sang and acted too. This was immediately followed with a video 'Down Memory Lane' showcasing photographs of the 40 picnics had over the years and to mark the event mementos were given to each family member. The day ended with a quiet dinner and bidding goodbye to all family members.

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— Jubel D'Cruz

“ IS GOD WITH US ? ” —DEC 2014

“IS GOD WITH US?”,.... Yes, this was the theme set for the 2014 Zonal Christmas Crib contest in our Parish. A strange and rather bland one I thought. Certainly one, which was going to tax the grey cells of all the participants. But then, I underestimated vision of the organizers and the creativity of our youth, each one excelling the other in thinking out of the box.

MH 370, EBOLA VIRUS, ISIS, MH17 UKRAINE CRISIS, all hot current international topics inspired and fired the imagination, providing fodder for their bountiful resourcefulness.

St. Andrew's Zone, tackled the situation differently. Think global, act local was their motto. Since finance was a constraint, all razzmatazz.... extravagant waterfalls, large, lush green meadows, thunder and lightning streaking across the backdrop of the blue skies, etc., was out of the question. Their mentor, a school teacher encouraged them to concentrate all their creativity on one key factor.... Simple, significant, meaningful messages touching upon each and every one's life. This could be the “X factor” separating the men from the boys!!!!!! And they came out with gems. Some of them are:

- * We are Human Beings, but our inhuman nature is responsible in destroying plants, animals, wasting water and electricity, killing human life thro' abortion.....IS GOD WITH US?
- * Cleanliness is next to godliness....we clean our homes and throw the garbage in our surroundings....IS GOD WITH US?
- * We attend mass daily but then engage in gossip about others, fight and envy the success of our

neighbors.....IS GOD WITH US?

- * We are a happy-go-lucky family, we live in our own world, give a deaf ear and a blind eye to what happens in our community and parish. I, Me, Myself is what we believe in....IS GOD WITH US?
- * We are members of Church organisations, we serve people of our community and parish but we neglect our duties and responsibilities towards our own families.....IS GOD WITH US?
- * We as parents constantly encourage and compel our children to excel in the field of education, sports, dramatics, etc., but we fail to develop right faith formation in them...IS GOD WITH US?
- * We are teenagers and spend more time on mobiles, parties, friends, etc. there is no time for family, Church and prayer and we have no concern, no care.....IS GOD WITH US?
- * We are teachers, proud with attitude, from a noble profession, we have no patience, no tolerance, no understanding, we insult and humiliate parents and students.....IS GOD WITH US?
- * We are lawyers, police, judges but say to hell with justice and peace, we are just concerned with our fees.....IS GOD WITH US?

* We are doctors who have chosen our profession for pleasure and treasure, if our negligence costs the life of some patients we have nothing to do.....IS GOD WITH US?

* We are politicians and social workers seen around only when it's time to vote, the rest of the time we count notes.....IS GOD WITH US?

We are all created in God's likeness and image but have drifted away due to our greed, selfishness and sinful ways. Is God with us? The answer may seem “NO” but that's not true. However weak, bad and frail we appear, God ever forgiving, always invites us to reconcile through the sacrament of penance.

It is clear that God is with us, now we need to ponder and sincerely ask ourselves “AM I WITH GOD?”

Excellent, outstanding, brilliant was my analysis, but that could be my prejudiced eyes since it was our zone. Needless to say St. Andrew's zone took away the top honours, the first prize in the contest.

—Brian Saldanha,
Our Lady of Nazareth Church,
Bhayandar (W).

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The Easter Triangle

Year after year, Easter brings us a providential opportunity to refresh and empower deeper values of our Christian faith, and to discover each time the glory of the Resurrection for an interior renewal in our personal lives, and by the unbroken testimony of Christ's triumph over death, a dynamic link for evangelization. The Easter Message celebrates the Risen Christ and his love for all humankind. "We have been saved" (Rom.8:24).



BY MELVYN BROWN

The divine confluence in coming together of the Resurrection, the Transfiguration and the Ascension of Jesus Christ is the Easter Triangle glorified within the forty days of the Messiah's stay on earth which stimulates a massive boost to the faith.

The Holy Bible assures us: the Christian conviction is based on credibility and embraces openness to all others. The Jews are known to have opinions. Often those opinions are wrong. In the Bible one can point to passages of relevant and absolute truth. How true it is when St. Paul wrote, "The Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword." (Heb.4:12).

The triumph of Jesus Christ is in the ultimate miracle of the resurrection. He conquered death. The recorded fact that Christ died, was buried and rose on the third day is supreme proof of His divinity.

Because of this amazing event the resurrection of the Messiah seals the validation of His claims to divinity. Jesus was, is and always will be the Christ triumphant. In thwarting disbelievers and their attempts to discredit the Resurrection of Christ came a second incredible challenge for them on knowing about the Ascension and Transfiguration of Jesus. He had indeed Risen and Ascended into heaven.

The Gospel of John 20:17 gives us an account of Jesus when he stood before Mary after His Resurrection and told her: "Go to my brethren and say to them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."

The Gospel of Mark reveals the truth of the Ascension laconically :16:19. "So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God."

The Gospel of Mathew 17:1-2 informs us, "After six days

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain apart. And he was transfigured before them and his face shone like the sun, and his garments became white as light. The people hurried to every corner of the city and told those who would listen about the Transfiguration and Ascension of Jesus.

The Son of man was truly "the Lord Jesus" God of all who believe in Him. The gospel of John 11:25 states, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. "

We find in the Acts of the Apostles 4:33, "And with great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all."

Jesus promises us no less when we give testimony to his Resurrection: telling all people of his divine triumph and glory.

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Controversy about Mother Theresa

Mohan Bhagwat has accused the Mother Theresa, imputing motives of conversion. Does speaking about your religion amount to conversion? Passing oblique remarks, demeaning, belittling, maligning her humanitarian service against a world adored, respected figure held in high esteem is in absolute poor taste. Unfortunately no one dares to question, contradict the ideological mentor, without distancing themselves but on the contrary supporting him in an exercise of fire fighting. Not even P.M who dares RSS when recently he thundered that violence will not be tolerated and freedom of religion and belief is enshrined in the constitution is the fundamental right. That it is intellectual debate and freedom to speak their mind on high and mighty irrespective is poor logic. Mother served 70 years adopting India as her country, She has also served in all countries irrespective of religious belief and is welcomed with open arms, Mother was showered with Nobel Peace prize and India at large felt emotionally attached about Indian being honoured and was not seen then as an outsider or agent of Jesus. India also honoured Mother with BHARAT RATNA, highest civilian award. Now accusing her as the agent of conversion, mis appropriation of funds, holding her strong views on abortion, contraception, are obnoxious. Slanted charges and further questioning the process of canonization is beyond limits.

It is a political allegations raking up unnecessary, irrelevant issues, stressing RSS ideology challenging own P.M and secretly planning Hindu tva agenda. The phrase "sub ka vikas sab ke saat" has passed its expiry date. The religious divide secular non secular, polarization, love jihad, re conversion, "Ghar Vapsi," diverting attention is a deep rooted strategy at play. The Parliament disallowed a debate on this maligning remarks. The Vatican has expressed dissatisfaction on the erupting controversy undermining her noble work. Various groups, speakers are emboldened to divide India on religious grounds, Even the President of USA was forced to think aloud on this issue

and Art 25, much to the discomfort of our leaders. The recent incidents of burning, vandalising Churches in Delhi is a point in consideration, creating alarm and sense of insecurity in minorities.

Mother stood by plurality, secularity and all have access to the same God and will be saved according to their faith. Service and love to humanity, downtrodden, wretched transcends all faith and belief and religion or embracing her faith was not precondition. I convert you to be a better Muslim, Hindu Christian to find God and worship Him. She believed in the dignity, love and respect of lepers, abandoned, sick, dying and homeless. She cannot be faulted of living her own beliefs and service of Jesus is a fallacy to be equated with conversions and it is illusive motive to discredit her and her mission, an assault on fundamental rights of minorities.

Indians of all shades have great admiration for the wonderful work of Missionaries of Charity. They support voluntarily the peace efforts in troubled times like riots of 1946, Babri Masjid demolition fall out in Calcutta. Catholic missionaries have contributed immensely towards health, education, welfare etc and it is wrong to take myopic view at their efforts with tinted glasses. The minorities do not resort to violence but follow the doctrine to present the other cheek and path of dialogue, forgiveness and reconciliation.

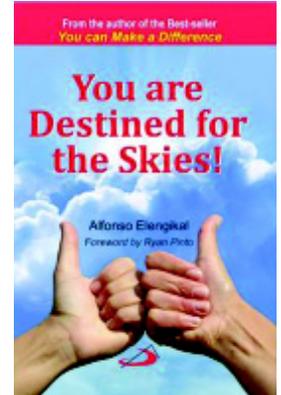
The population is decreased from 6 to 2 % and hence the conversion theory falls flat on statistics.

Denigrating a world revered personality of financial impropriety, relegating her work is the worst tribute we can pay to her memory of selfless service. It is true that the drummers of majority of hurt sentiment are in isolation, as they consider themselves as self righteous votaries of preserving and repositories of Hindu faith and belief. India today needs conversion of mindset, because the existing laws can take care of forced conversion with inducements.

—Nelson Lopes
Chinchinim

“You Are Destined For the Skies” Sets an all-time Record!

You Are Destined For the Skies, the second book of Fr Alfonso Elengikal, released on Friday, 21st November, 2014, has set an all-time record, effect-



ing a sale of 25,000 copies in less than four months. The first set of 5,000 copies that came out of the press in early October were sold out even before its formal release.

It was then the Ryan International Group of Institutions placed an order for 16,250 copies of the book, the largest-ever single order for any book received by BYB/ST PAULS, necessitating in a second print of 20,000 copies in mid-November. The “Ryan International” has over 125 schools across the country and abroad, and the book was given away as farewell gift to the Xth / XIIth std students, in the last week of January, with a personal note from Managing Director Mrs Grace Pinto.

The entire second edition, too, was completely sold out, by last week. As more orders are coming in the BYB has already gone for another re-print of 5,000 copies, expected to be out of the press by early March.

Meantime, Fr Elengikal continues with his popular monthly column in the Chennai-based fortnightly *The New Leader* titled “Called to the Heights”, he began three years ago.

Inspiration!

5 Friends We All Have



Friendship is one of the best things that happen to us. A life without friends is empty. There are many types of friends that we have in our lives. Here is a list.

Who's your best friend? It's a tough question, if you're lucky. Because the truth is, many people have multiple best friends. There's the best friend from when you were little, the one you met in high school, your college roommate, that random girl you met in a bar and discovered was your soul mate...

The Life Coach

Because of our busy lives, I hardly ever speak to one of my closest friends. But it doesn't really matter. When we do connect, without fail, she reinvigorates me. Her pep talks make me feel more hopeful about myself and my future. What's more, my energizer friend is strong and tough, with a vigor for life I can feed off of. Through her example, she makes me more eager to achieve

my goals or just keep tackling my everyday. Talking with her recharges my emotional battery until the next time we have a minute to pick up the phone.

The Risk Taker

We all need an adventurous friend who nudges us out of the status quo—someone who introduces us to new ideas, philosophies, and activities that we might have otherwise not been exposed to. They helped us become less intimidated and more excited about traveling. In fact, thanks to them. We drive an RV across cities in summers. Scary? Yes. But we had so much fun, we're going again each year.

The Challenger

One characteristic we underrate in a friend is the ability to be brutally honest. That's why we always admired the friendship of who challenge authorities. They led very different lives. They continually and vocally argued about social rights, women's status and what is wrong in the society. But because they were able to challenge and educate each other, they accomplish much for people in the country. It's also why

they remained close, trusted friends for more than anyone else.

The Loyalist

Every woman needs a "trust worthy" friend—by which we mean a friend you can be a complete wreck in front of. This pal can drop in unannounced when you're looking your worst. You haven't showered and the house is a total disaster, but she won't judge you. More important, he'll/she'll let you be emotional when you're at a low point. So we can vent out our frustration at not getting the job, our about our relationship is not going smooth and he/she really listen. We all need a friend who hangs in there even when we're not at our best.

The Comic Relief

If you have a friend who has a great sense of humour, he/she are acts like source of relief to you. There's nothing more exciting than having a friend who cracks jokes in every situation and knows how to bring about laughter. Sense of humour is a great attribute and if you are friends with someone who is blessed with a sense of humour, you have a priced-possession. Laughter is so essential to life. If you don't have a friend (or 5!) who can make you hurst uncontrollably into a knee-slapping, tears-streaming-down-your-face belly laugh, then you are totally missing out. Another good thing about a friend with a great sense of humour? He/she usually has warmth and compassion to spare and radiate their happiness everywhere.

Who is Rich

Knowing others is intelligence;
Knowing yourself is true wisdom.
Mastering others is strength;
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MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 29 years, Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 82 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. H.S.C. + P.G. Diploma, working on Cruise Ship. Contact email : stanlybobn@yahoo.com OR 9869332407 / 22836151. **(Regd. No. 6220)**

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 46 years, Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 55 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. SSC, working as a LIC Agent Assistant. Contact : 9819266107 / 28954378 **(Regd. No. 6219)**

AMBERNATH : Roman Catholic Bachelor 18th June 1983 Born, Educational Three and Half years Diploma in Hotel Management and Catering Technology, Height 5'8" smart Charming with own accommodation. Working in Hotel Industry As Asst. Manager in Mumbai Father Govt. Pensioner, Mother I.C Nurse in Govt. Hospital Seeks Alliance from Catholic Spinster **Contact: Mrs. Severine Dias Ambernath : 9960582206 (Regd. No. 6218)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 33 years, Ht. 5' 7", Wheatish Complexion, Edn. PGDRM, working as a Manager. Contact email : laron316@gmail.com

(Regd. No. 6213)

RAJKOT : Anglican Protestant Bachelor, aged 31 yeas, Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 63 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., MBA working as a Manager. Contact email : evie100984@gmail.com OR 9662671103 **(Regd. No. 6211)**

MUMBAI : Goan Widower, aged 45 years, Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. SSC., HSC, Working Mechanical Technician in Abroad, having 9 years daughter. Currently in Mumbai. Contact email : cola_mick@yahoo.com OR 9702148869 **(Regd. No. 6210)**

DHARWAD : Goan RC Bachelor aged 36 years, Ht. 6', Wt. 79 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Masters (Navitical Science), working as a Merchant Navy 2nd Officer. Contact email : ephremf@gmail.com OR 9768153407 **(Regd. No. 6205)**

USA : RC Bachelor 34 / 5' 9", working in the USA, with a reputed organisation on a senior position, M.Com (India), MBA (USA) has good family values god fearing, pleasing personality, family oriented and having own accomodation in the USA. Seeks life partner from a Roman Catholic spinster having good christian values and willing to settle in the USA. Please send Bio-data alongwith thelatest photograph to ovrille@gmail.com **(Regd. No. 6204)**

USA : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Divorcee, aged 46 years, Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn.Masters in Engineeing and Business. Working as a Vice President. Seeks a girl below 40 years. Contact email : vinodmiranda@yahoo.com / miranda.ronald20@yahoo.com OR 9322191670 **(Regd. No. 6199)**

Members are requested to inform us when they are settled, so that publication of their details can be discontinued.

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Divocee, aged 44 years, Ht. 6', Fair Complexion, Edn. Undergraduate, working as a Security officer in Ship. Coming in the month of December, Seeks a suitable match. Contact Email : maldsouza@gamil.com OR 09480157258 **(Regd No. 6198)**

PUNE : Tamilian Roman Catholic Bachelor aged 42 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 62 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Diploma Mech, Engg., Working for Govt. Concern. Well settled. Seeks a simple, qualified girl. Contact email : berland@rediffmail.com OR 9822397126 / 8097191727 **(Regd. No. 6191)**

PUNE : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor aged 33 years, Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Diploma Holder, having own business. Seeks a Goan homely, family oriented girl. Contact email : inbluedreamz@yahoo.com OR 9881768210 **(Regd. No. 6198)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Bachelor aged 30 years, Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Tech., Well settled. Contact email : bridesearch14@gmail.com OR 9820324761 **(Regd. No. 6188)**

MUMBAI : Christian Bachelor aged 36 years, Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 85 kgs, Fair Complexion, handsome, Edn. B.Tech, Director in Software based MNC. Seeks a beutiful, cultured, well qualified girl. Contact email : adelsib2@yahoo.com OR 9324511174 **(Regd. No. 6187)**

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MATRIMONIALS

MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Spinster, aged 29 years, Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 45 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Sc., Service. Contact email : nmd2612@yahoo.in OR 9869959289 **(Regd. No. 6287)**

LONDON : East Indian RC Spinster, aged 37 years, Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 55 kgs, Fair Complexion, good looking, Edn. B.Pharm (Mumbai), M.Sc. (London) working for MNC in London. Due for U.K. Citizenship. Visiting India every six months. Seeks a handsome, well settled and educated any Roman Catholic Bachelor. Contact email : blossomcolaco@yahoo.com OR 9326463210 / 9011869244 **(Regd. No. 6286)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Spinster, aged 24 years, Ht. 5', Wt. 47 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. T.Y. B.A / D.ed., Teacher by profession. Only Child. Contact email : tina.jennifer@rediffmail.com OR 9769298095 **(Regd. No. 6285)**

MUMBAI : Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 32 years, Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 50 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., LLB., pursuing LLM. working as a Asst. Manager. Contact email : 1february12345@gmail.com OR 9967673377 **(Regd. No. 6284)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Spinster, aged 27 years, Ht. 5', Wt. 50 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., Service. Contact email : leenamargret@gmail.com OR 9833804399 **(Regd. No. 6282)**

MUMBAI : Goan RC Spinster, aged 27 years, Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B. Pharma & MBA, working as an Asst. Manager. Seeks a Engineer or well settled and educated. Contact email : nisha.ferns@yahoo.com OR 9870399755 **(Regd. No. 6192)**

MUMBAI : Roman Catholic Spinster,

aged 27 years, Ht. 5' 2", Wheatish Complexion, Edn. C.A., Manager Accounts in Private Limited Company, well settled. Contact email : mabelplobo@gmail.com OR 9869017398 **(Regd. No. 6190)**

MUMBAI : Goan (Bardez) RC Spinster, aged 32 years, Ht. 5' 4", Fair Complexion., Edn. B.A., Dip. in Financial Management, Banking Exams, Working as Senior Manager for a reputed Private Sector Bank Seeks educated and well settled Roman Catholic Goan (Bardez) Bachelor between 34-36 years. Ht. 5' 7" and above. Contact email : andy.franky@hotmail.com OR 9833710833 **(Regd. No. 6185)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Spinster, aged 35 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Sr. Customer Service Associate. Contact email : dsouza.arati@gmail.com OR 9869612479 **(Regd. No. 6184)**

MUMBAI : East Indian RC Spinster, aged 44 years, Ht. 5' 1", Wt. 62 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., Giving Tuition. Contact : 9221758206 **(Regd. No. 6181)**

MUMBAI : Goan RC Spinster, aged 32 years, Ht. 5' 9 1/2", Wt. 70 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. Graduate working as a Office Assistant. Contact email : melsav2014@gmail.com OR 022-2416 2210 **(Regd. No. 6180)**

MUMBAI : Goan RC Spinster, aged 36 years, Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., PGDC, NIIT. working as a Sr. Executive in DUBAI. Looking for well qualified bachelor from Working in UAE or Mumbai. Contact Email : vsearch2373@gmail.com OR 00971501684427 / 919820594221 **(Regd. No. 6177)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Spinster, aged 24 years, Ht. 5', Wt. 50 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. HSC, Diploma, working as a Graphic designer. Deaf and dumb, can understand and speak little in English. Seeks a suitable match. Contact email : serranonancy3@gmail.com OR

7208812988 **(Regd. No. 6176)**

MUMBAI : Keralite Syro Malabar Spinster, aged 25 years, Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MA, working with CFA firm in USA. Seeks a suitable match. Contact email : dayskul@yahoo.co.in OR 9869431648 **(Regd. No. 6175)**

MUMBAI: Goan RC Spinster, PG, aged 27 years. Ht. 5' 3", heavy built, wheatish complexion, employed with Pharma Co having good family values seek alliance from well settled Bachelors with good family background. Kindly reply with complete details with a recent photograph on email: buddies_22@yahoo.in **(Regd. No. 6174)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Spinster, aged 27 years, Ht. 5', Wt. 48 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. BE (IT), working as a Sr. Software Engr., Seeks a suitable well qualified match. Contact email : western2462@rediffmail.com OR 8652024267 **(Regd. No. 6173)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC spinster 1973 born, 5' 5" tall, 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 45 years, employed in good position and well settled in Mumbai or abroad. Contact email : bellwether77@yahoo.com or Mob. No. 9892700617. **(Regd. No. 6166)**

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Why, To Many Critics, Mother Teresa Is Still No Saint

washingtonpost.com

Mother Teresa, the Roman Catholic missionary who became an international icon for her charitable work, has been dropped into modern India's religious debate after the head of the Hindu nationalist group Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) criticized the intentions behind her work.

"It's good to work for a cause with selfless intentions. But Mother Teresa's work had ulterior motive, which was to convert the person who was being served to Christianity," RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat said at the opening of an orphanage in Rajasthan state on Monday, the Times of India reports. "In the name of service, religious conversions were made. This was followed by other institutes, too."

Bhagwat's comments caused a storm among opposition politicians, angered by the implication that a woman who won a Nobel Peace Prize for her work in India would have had ulterior motives. Congress party official Rajiv Shukla demanded an apology while the newly elected Delhi chief minister, Arvind Kejriwal, said Teresa was a "noble soul" and asked RSS to spare her.

This controversy about Mother Teresa, who died in 1997, is far from her first. Her saintly reputation (she is quite literally on the path to sainthood – she was beatified in 2003) was gained for aiding Calcutta's poorest of the poor, yet it was undercut by persistent allegations of misuse of funds, poor medical treatments and religious evangelicalism in the institutions she founded.

In his critique of Mother Teresa, the devoutly Hindu Bhagwat finds an unlikely ally in the work of devoutly atheist Christopher Hitchens. The late British



writer became one of the most vocal critics of Teresa in the 1990s, tying his reputation to assailing a woman who was, at the time, an unassailable figure.

In 1994, Hitchens, along with British Pakistani journalist Tariq Ali, wrote an extremely critical British documentary on Mother Teresa, titled "Hell's Angel." You can see it for yourself below.

The documentary, which drew heavily from the account of Aroup Chatterjee, an Indian-born British writer who had worked briefly in one of Mother Teresa's charitable homes, listed a catalog of criticisms against Mother Teresa. It found fault with the conditions in the facilities of Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta, which one journalist compared to the photographs she had seen of Nazi Germany's Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, and Hitchens himself rallied against the "cult of death and suffering."

The documentary also argued that Teresa was an "ally of the status quo," pointing to her relationships with dubious figures all around the world, most notably Haitian dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier and scandal-hit American financier Charles Keating. "She may or may not comfort the afflicted, but she has never been known to afflict the comfortable," Hitchens explains.

'Hell's Angel' sparked an international debate, and Hitchens soon followed it up with a pamphlet, unfortunately titled "The Missionary Position," which repeated and expanded upon his criticisms. As Bruno Maddox put it in a

review for the New York Times, Hitchens concluded that Mother Teresa was "less interested in helping the poor than in using them as an indefatigable source of wretchedness on which to fuel the expansion of her fundamentalist Roman Catholic beliefs."

Hitchens' critiques of Teresa may come across as polemical, but it's far from the only criticism. British medical journal the Lancet published a critical account of the care in Mother Teresa's facilities in 1994 and an academic Canadian study from a couple of years ago found fault with "her rather dubious way of caring for the sick, her questionable political contacts, her suspicious management of the enormous sums of money she received, and her overly dogmatic views regarding, in particular, abortion, contraception, and divorce." Aroup Chatterjee also published his own extremely critical book on Mother Teresa in 2003.

Many who support Mother Teresa dispute these accounts, of course, but they exist and are frequently debated. In fact, when compared to the criticism that already exists about Mother Teresa and the Missionaries of Charity, Bhagwat's words look relatively meek: Multiple accounts say that Mother Teresa's nuns would baptize the dying and she had a reputation for proselytizing.

However, Bhagwat's comments are being received in the light of ongoing religious tensions in India, accented by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's own pious Hindu faith and personal history with RSS. Religious conversions in particular have become a touchy subject in the predominantly Hindu nation, with Muslims said to be pressured into converting to Hinduism and Christian converts fearing violence.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/worldviews/wp/2015/02/25/why-to-many-critics-mother-teresa-is-still-no-saint/>

Finance For New Investor

It is very easy for a new investor to get excited in making money and take wrong decisions while planning his finances. The above steps would help to bring some order and progress in financial life.

Investing is something most people will do during their lifetime. They may invest in real estate, life insurance, stocks, bonds or mutual funds.

Liberty of spending in the first year: When you start working and income starts coming in, saving and investing are generally not on the top of the priority list for most people. You would wish to buy things you wanted for long, but could not afford it with the pocket money you received as a student. Although it is often stressed that the earlier you start saving, the better it is, it is acceptable if you spend in the first year of your career.

Hence if saving and investing are thrust upon them, right from the start, they become averse to this. They have not yet benefited from the money they have earned and many desires remain unfulfilled. So it is not wise to talk about things like finance and financial planning at the beginning.

Learn the various aspects of finance: It is easy to take the help of a financial planner and start the process of financial planning. Although this is a more professional and organized approach to set your finances right, you must also take the trouble of getting your hands dirty. Understand the basic concepts of saving and investing, and also how each investment avenue works. When you are clear of the concepts and fundamentals, you can easily comprehend the various happenings in the market and also what your planner says.

Establish goals and plan your financial life: You can plan your investments in different areas after defining and prioritizing your goals. Remember to determine the present estimated cost for each goal and then inflate it to the approximate value as on the due date. Do review and invest wisely by consulting experts.

Start a Recurring Deposit: A recurring deposit helps you to save regularly and is a safe investment option for a newcomer. It is simple to understand and inculcates the discipline of saving. Therefore, as you begin learning various concepts of personal finance, you must start a recurring deposit side by side. You can invest any amount according to your salary and depending on the amount you can save after your expenses.

Get the important things done first: Certain activities like taking a life insurance cover, taking a health insurance cover, having an emergency fund, starting a PPF and NPS account and getting your basic documents in place are of prime importance. Once you establish a risk cover and



install a retirement plan, you can then gradually look at new avenues like equity mutual funds, real estate.

Remember:

Entering the world of investments can be an overwhelming and intimidating experience. There is so much information, investment strategies and investment types that it would take a lifetime to learn all of them, and by then, it's too late. Start with some simple, safe investments while you continue to learn.

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