

THE SECULAR CITIZEN

Vol.30 Issue No.42 ■ (Total Pages 20) ■ Mumbai, 18 - 24 October, 2021 ■ Rs. 10

A NATIONAL FAMILY WEEKLY

Is it Dumb and Dumber or What on Climate Change?

by *Don Aguiar.*

Well, that's exactly what we are doing with how we run planet Earth. Did you see the recent photo of the G20 leaders? There were 36 men and 3 women lined up. A few murderers, maybe a genocide or two under their belts...and lots of sticky fingers.

Then we the people go on to explain that on Planet Earth our brightest people are already putting probability figures on an imminent total collapse of our ecosystem. Not enough water or land to support the current numbers of wise ones, not to mention the additional ones already scheduled to arrive soon, let alone all the animals and trees who also need land and water. **And not content with that, in our wisdom we have developed a lifestyle that poisons both the land we stand on, the water we drink, and the atmosphere we breathe.** The resulting droughts, floods, rising sea levels, and heat waves are going to threaten everything we depend on to survive. Just one other thing: our species is big on killing machines. We can destroy the whole planet in a jiffy if one of those 36 men and 3 women really get upset about something and decide to hit a button we provide for them that sits on their desk, or close by. It is not surprising people are asking how long do you think we humans have?

As the impacts of the climate crisis become ever more apparent, people around the world, led by Indigenous Peoples, women, youth, and frontline communities, are demanding action. In response, Big Polluters and the governments that do their bidding have begun to tout commitments to achieve "net zero" emissions as solutions to the crisis they have caused.

The report makes it clear that Big Polluters' idea of "net zero" is part of their continued plan to protect deeply unjust global systems, distract from taking the real action needed, and to evade responsibility for the climate crisis and to continue to pollute.

Governments must stop buying into and reinforcing this dangerous scheme, and instead commit to real action to reach the needed emissions reductions by 2030, and to hold Big Polluters accountable for their deception

These men and women must have proved themselves to be superior at solving problems deceptively, understanding issues and so on? Especially as there are currently so many serious ones to deal with. Actually no. Unless the function is really mechanical, like being a circus weight lifter, there is little evidence that these "men & women" are superior at anything. In fact, looking at the state of the planet these men & women have been managing, and the scientific studies on the subject, the ignored population might be rather better than these men and women at any number of valuable functions.

But asks hopefully that if it is already clear that the men & women who are in charge may be a little retarded in some important aspects of their development, then this oversight must be already under review? So that human life could quickly move in the direction that intelligence (you know "wisdom") would suggest? Well at the present rate of wisdom, it will take many years for us to enjoy ecosystem parity in the management of the planet.

We may have everything we need materially (particularly in the west), but we've also got an enormous bunch of unhappy and lonely people out there that for some reason cannot find happiness or are living in pain.

Our ability to sense heat, cold and touch is essential and deeply connected with our ecosystem and underpins our interaction with the world around us. Living in pain and being prescribed medication by big pharma (and their doctors in tow) is an

(Contd.. on p. 3)

A Glacier called Congress

Congress party has a history of more than a century and it was nurtured by some of the biggest names in the country's freedom struggle and even in the post independence era. The party which had grown from strength to strength bagged 400 seats in Parliament in the eighties and almost decimated all the opposition parties. That was when Rajiv Gandhi was at the helm of affairs as Prime Minister. Though a novice at politics he, with his charismatic and amiable ways, endeared himself to the people and grew into a very capable leader. Gandhis thought [rightly to some extent] that they would rule the country for ever and never cared to groom any other leader lest he or she overshadowed the family – now famously referred to as 'Parivar' – not to be missed for Sangh Parivar. Post Rajiv Gandhi era, there was no tall leader to take the legacy forward. Once he was out of the frame under most tragic circumstances, the party's fortunes saw dramatic changes and from then on, never really recovered to get even a simple majority in Parliament.

Despite its pan India presence, the party has a paltry 50 seats in Parliament which does not even qualify the party to be officially recognized as the main Opposition. Despite its small tally, the party does have and had some capable leaders who could make an impact but unflinching loyalty [Ji-huzoor] to the Gandhis was and is the only criterion for selection as the Leader of the Party [LOP] in parliament. In fact the same criteria is applied in almost every appointment much to the frustration of the capable leaders [hardcore Congressmen] some whom have already left for greener pastures while others are sidelined as if they never existed. While Sonia has the support of the elder Congressmen the young siblings Rahul and Priyanka are busy pandering to the younger leaders who are loyal to them. In the process, there is a generational divide and the mother with her frail health can hardly play

VIEWS on NEWS

a pivotal role. The Gandhi siblings decide which CM belonging to the old guard needs to be replaced by a younger and loyal leader. The mother falls in line.

The recent events in Punjab have shown how immaturity can spell disaster for the party. With the tallest leader, erstwhile CM Amarinder Singh, on the verge of forming his own outfit has shown how humiliated he felt. He is now full of remorse and with his popularity amongst the people he can ensure that the Congress does not win the next elections easily in that highly sensitive border state. Navjot Singh Sidhu is too ambitious and he is going to hold the party high command to ransom every time to have his say. He was nothing short of Chief Minister-ship. He has already started needling the newly appointed CM who has been his supporter. With trouble in almost every Congress ruled state coupled with the unrest in the so called G23, it is doubtful if the party will be able to hold on to its tally of 50 MPs.

With the dissensions in the party, the opposition parties do not have to poach for the Congress leaders. As things appear, except for the select few who are very close to the Gandhi siblings and wield enormous powers without responsibility, others are feeling left out and frustrated. Rahul Gandhi is nobody in the party except that he is a Gandhi. He is just an MP like many others and yet calls the shots. He resigned as Congress President and wants somebody outside the Gandhi parivar to head the party. Yet he does not take any proactive steps to hold an election. There are enough sycophants around him to shout down any dissenting voice and organize impromptu demonstrations with tomatoes [eggs are expensive these days]. Kapil Sibal is a very senior leader like many others and if the Gandhis do not interact with him then the only option left is to voice his view point in public. The Gandhis dare not expel them so they use other tactics.



by Marshall Sequeira

Unless there is a drastic change in the party setup which will unify both the young and the old, it is hard to expect the party to find its bearings to face the 2024 elections. With selfish individual motives, the party takes a back stage. I view the Congress party today as a glacier affected by climate change and has already started melting at a very slow pace. One thing is certain. The glacier, once it starts melting, there is nothing you can do to reverse that trend. At best you can try to control external forces from speeding the process. Otherwise a time will come when you may have to merge with a regional party like the NCP or TMC. This may sound preposterous but as long as the Gandhis remain at the helm, the party will only go one way - downhill. The GOP of India could be a thing of the past and lose its identity which will be a sad day for its many supporters. The Gandhi triumvirate needs to wake up and wake up fast.

A Photo Finish?

A social media post said that the American Immigration Officials were pleasantly surprised to find at least one person whose photograph on the Vaccination certificate tallied with the person carrying it. Obviously, they were referring to the recent visit of our Prime Minister Narendra Modi who visited America to address the UNGA. There is a lot of talk about the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's photograph on each and every vaccination certificate issued by the Health Ministry. There have been reports of immigration officials elsewhere stopping Indians saying that the photo on the certificate does not match with the holder. The affected

(Contd.. on p. 5)

THE SECULAR CITIZEN

A NATIONAL FAMILY WEEKLY

Vol.30 Issue No.42 Oct. 18-24, 2021 Rs.10/-

99, Perin Nariman Street, Fort, Mumbai - 400 001.

Mobile: +91 9820485389 / 9820473103

E-mail : secular@sezariworld.com / seculardivo@gmail.com

Website: www.sezariworld.com

Editor: LAWRENCE COELHO

Subscriptions Rate:

One year (anywhere in India) Rs. 500

Two years (anywhere in India) Rs.1000

Five years (anywhere in India) Rs. 2000

One year (outside India) Rs. 3500

E-paper Edition

sent anywhere in the world (by email)

One year

Rs. 600 or US \$ 15

Advertisement. Tariff

Over all size 21.5 cms x 27cms ● Print area 18 cms x 25.5 cms

Full pg. back Colour (19 cms x 24 cms) Rs. 18,000

Center spread colour(39 cms x 23.5 cms) Rs. 18,000

Full pg. inside Cover colour(18 cms x 24 cms) Rs. 12,000

Full pg. inner colour (18 cms x 24 cms) Rs. 10,000

Half pg. Colour (18 cms x 12 cms) Rs. 6,000

Full page B/W (18 cms x 24 cms) Rs. 7,000

Half page B/W (18 cms x 12 cms) Rs. 5,000

Small Size Ads B/W

12 x 12cms Rs. 2400 ● 6 x 24cms Rs. 2400

18 x 6cms Rs. 1800 ● 6 x 12cms Rs. 1200

6 x 6cms Rs. 700

Matrimonial Classifieds:

● Rs. 500 per insertion (for 35 words) (includes box no.)

● Rs. 3000 for 12 insertions. (1 year The Secular Citizen FREE)

Digital copy of **THE SECULAR CITIZEN** now available through WhatsApp / Email for subscribers worldwide. Send in your request to : +91 - 9820485389 or secular@sezariworld.com

Our bank account details for Fund Transfer : Account Name: The Secular Citizen, Current Account No. 03552000006744, Bank: HDFC Bank, Branch : CST - Mumbai VT, ISFC code: HDFC0000355

(Contd.. from p. 1)

other one of the scandals besides the discoveries of non-prescription drugs consumed by many young and old alike of treatments for chronic pain and other conditions.

How we sense the temperature, touch and movement are some of the great questions of humanity maintaining our ecosystem. The sensation that is got at present with climate change is something as unfamiliar as it has such a personal and cultural significance to so many people and they have a story as everyone is experiencing painful climatic extremes like heat, cold.....

I saw a very scary documentary on HBO called "The Crime of the Century" which mainly focused on the opioid disaster in the US. It reported that the total number of deaths from prescription and non-prescription drugs has surpassed by far the number of deaths from wars in which the US has participated.

I ask again: "What is going on?" Indeed, what kind of democracy or system of society is it exactly that some of our leaders feel we should "export" to others? I am not an alarmist, but I

do feel that something is not right.

What do we do? We might as well give the poor people of the world the full horror story. So the thing about these men & women is that they are really big on competition, and being first, and being better than everyone else.... Frankly, this endless drive for more and better and so on means we have an economic system based on "Growth." You know, it is about size matters....

As mankind becomes more and more individualistic and as competition increases, everyone becomes too pre occupied with the question: What is in it for me? Some people even call the modern generation as "Me First" generation. This is the secret of poisoning our ecosystem and its unhappiness, because selfishness is the great enemy of all happiness. It may be because of insecurity or lack of confidence about the future. Or the unwillingness to think of the needs of 'the other' All human relationships, all efforts to promote the common good, flounder on this one aspect of human nature.

Where will their intelligence and wisdom lead us? Whose idea was it to call ourselves "sapiens" or wise? And then developing a lifestyle in poison-

ing our ecosystem? It seems to be populated by some wild beasts, so let's compare man and animals....

A drop of water on a tree leaf. 12 ants have gathered to drink ... what's amazing is that the ants have divided themselves into four groups. This is to maintain the balance of the water drop from tilting and then falling to the ground. It is a science of ants to cooperate and divide the share of water equally among them and give everyone his right. **While humans have animal instinct but animals are more human.**

The simple truth is selfishness repels, love attracts. Most religions lay emphasis on loving God. Unless this is accompanied by the love of fellow beings and care for creation, loving God will remain a fruitless ritual.

Translation Service available

Announcements, Notices, Prayers, Books, Ads., Etc. from

English to Konkani

(Kannanda, Romi Scripts)

and

Konkani to English

Contact: **9820485389**

Mumbai - Pune Train/ Expressway sey Chalo

As a young boy, travelling to Poona (or Pune) by the Decan Queen was the ultimate train journey, full of adventure. The stories of wild animals in the dark tunnels, heard from friends, added to the adventure. The hot *batata vadas* at Karjat, the *adrak chai* were to die for. I also remember the excitement of counting the number of tunnels on the ghats.

As a young man, the trips continued but convenience dictated other modes of travel and soon, with the Mumbai - Pune Expressway, car was the obvious choice but State Transport buses were the cheap and best mode of transport and I enjoyed it with pleasure during the last term of retirement from Bank's service from Chinchwad Pune. It was a pleasure to be part of the bus crew by sitting near the driver or being seated next to the conductor for free chat and for maintaining camaraderie with them.

After a long long time, I had the privilege of a return trip to Mumbai by the Decan Queen. Of course the morning journey, in the old days also, wouldn't have invoked the same awe that the evening trip to Pune did. Nevertheless the awesome view of the ghats, the green cover during the monsoon, the mini waterfalls, all of which I could appreciate while travelling by train as it slowly chugged through the mountains, could never be experienced while driving or even as a passenger when traveling by road. Had resolved to count the number of tunnels on the ghats, this time, but soon lost count.

And then once the ghats are over, the train thunders through the plains, past the Parsik tunnel, onwards to its destination. An overall exciting trip. Sad that the train is not my first mode of travel nowadays. Memories of childhood revived. My mind mingles on my bus journeys during the week-end to

be back in Bombay and spend Sundays with my family.

God has given a gift to the people of Mumbai and Pune to live near two hill towns Lonawalla and Khandala. These places are lying in the Mumbai-Pune belt and people passing through Expressway or the old route thoroughly enjoy nature's beauty in the best way possible. Expressway is a boon to passengers to go to these places



C.K. Subramaniam

and enjoy the week-end in the best way possible. Apart from this there is a rail route which passes through the green mountains and gives the passengers a pleasant sight to watch. It is just Heaven on Earth. The landscape and the valleys give a green look and are very pleasant to the eyes. During the cloudy rainy season one can enjoy the scenic beauty with smoke surrounding these mountains from three sides.

The areas most prone to heavy and extremely heavy rainfall are close to Mumbai in Maharashtra. It was observed that rain on the "windward" side of cascaded mountains, the side of mountain ranges that are exposed to monsoon winds, is greater than that compared to isolated mountains. This is because the barrier created by a cascaded mountain range restricts flow of clouds for a longer time, thus giving more time for rain formation. If the barrier is small, like an isolated mountain, the water droplets are carried away to the other side of the mountain and rain on the windward side is less. Karnataka has a cascade mountain range in the Western Ghats. In the rain shadow region, more rain is seen in Maharashtra than Karnataka. In addition to the length of the mountain, the width of the mountain also affected the rainfall. The mountains in Maharashtra are narrower as compared to mountains in Karnataka.

Monsoon rains and Mountain ranges

add colour to this enchanting route. The Rainy season is the best to enjoy the scenic beauty. The atmosphere is very clear and you can see the mountain ranges from a long distance very clearly. The green vegetation and the birds flying near the mountains is a scene to cherish. The fog/smog hits the mountains near Khandala and gives you the feeling that the cloud is at your grasp. Monsoon rains hit Lonavala/Khandala very heavily and the water flows through the bus and wiper doing its duty systematically. During heavy rains water flows from all parts of the mountains and it gathers as one stream and we can see a silver stream passing through at a distance from all the sides. The birds screaming gives a musical sound. The journey of 90 minutes through Monsoon rains and Mountain ranges is really a thrill. One can visualize the magic moments and get a closer look of nature.

At times we can see the cloud hovering low around the mountains and the rain drops tickle and fall on you when you are seated near the window of your car or bus. The waterfalls on the way are a treat to watch. Birds fly hither and thither from dawn to dusk. Climate in the valley and on the way is rather cool and road users should drive with caution on slippery roads during monsoon season. Big stones fall from the hill side and there is protection available to ensure safe driving. While going up, the route curves round like a snake and you can see the scenic beauty and the on going traffic from the top. But the best part is the valley and tiny houses seen from the top of the road give a clean look. People travelling through Mumbai-Pune Expressway can really enjoy the beauty of nature. And if you go through the old Mumbai-Pune route, then you can be at close quarters with mountain ranges and likely to enjoy the waterfalls on the way. It is a dream come true sight to watch the mountain ranges during monsoon rains and it is a spot for photography.



On clerical sex abuse cases

Much has been happening in the Catholic church during the past few decades which has shaken the faith of its adherents and damaged the credibility of the church, due to the number of sexual abuse cases by priests and bishops. A recent French report has revealed that around 330,000 children have become victims of sex abuse, by over 3000 priests and an unknown number of people working in the church, over the past 70 years. Three years back, the Pennsylvania sex scandal came to light, after the Grand Jury reported that around 1000 children were sexually abused by 300 priests, over a period of seven decades. The magnitude of these crimes is simply mind-boggling and shameful, because such atrocities are being committed by anointed and consecrated "men of God", entrusted with the mission of watching and caring for the most vulnerable. A public 'mea culpa' by bishops has now become meaningless and a joke, as these shepherds have now lost their credibility as they are found to cover up the guilt of the perpetrators. It is only an awareness of sin that can open our eyes and save the church from damnation. Pope Francis has therefore invited the entire church to a penitential exercise of prayer and fasting to awaken our conscience to a commitment and a culture of care that says "never again" to every form of abuse".

— A. F. Nazareth,
Alto Porvorim, Goa

Debt of gratitude

Here is a list of Covid-19 warriors to

whom we owe a mountainous debt of gratitude. Think of them tonight as you go to sleep and send out your heartfelt thanks to them.

The nurse who cleaned, maintained and took care of thousands of patients daily.

The ward boys who cleaned the bodies of the deceased and made it ready for funerals.

The ambulance drivers who waited patiently for hours at the hospital gates and at the crematorium grounds.

(Contd.. from p. 2)

people had to explain to the officials at great length how dear our Prime Minister is to Indian citizen that he likes to accompany us even on overseas trips. 'How very considerate' – must have been their reaction before they stamped the passport to allow entry into the country. He is so much concerned with our well being that he does not want to leave us alone. He has a dozen black cats to guard him but we the ordinary mortals have none so he wants to make sure that we are safe.

Since he laps this, the dozens of mantris and bureaucrats must be working overtime to figure out how else they can make the Prime Minister happier. They would have conceived numerous schemes where the Prime Minister's photograph can appear prominently. Every advertisement, be it by the centre or the state [ruled by the BJP] has his colour photograph and it must be admitted that he is fairly photogenic. How suddenly he decided to grow his beard which is rather odd as flowing beard is generally associated with a particular community. Anyway it is good for national integration. With UP elections being not too far away and then readying for the 2024 general elections, more and more such publicity will be on display. Wonder how much money

The security guards at the hospitals who managed the arrival of vehicles.

The manager of the crematorium.

The body handlers at the crematorium who were overworked, exhausted and underpaid but yet they did their job without complaining.

Our sanitation workers who did their job without complaining.

The police constables at the traffic signals who ensured that we wore our masks.

The delivery boys who worked round the clock to bring our food packets at our doorstep.

The local vegetable vendors who ensured that we got our fresh supply of vegetables and fruits daily.

These are just a few. There are many more. Are we thankful to them? Yes, we should be.

—Jubel D'Cruz,
Dombivili, Mumbai

is being spent on such a show which could have been gainfully utilized elsewhere for the poor. It must be admitted that all parties flush with funds [courtesy Electoral Bonds] will do the same thing.

Narendra Modi has completed 20 years of public service beginning with the Chief Minister-ship of Gujarat. He did a good job there [including the Gujarat riots 'management'] and became eligible to head the country as its Prime Minister much to the disappointment of L.K. Advani who was hoping to be named PM. Well, as PM he has done a good job especially how the world perceives India today. Whether the same thing can be said domestically, will always be a debatable point. Since sycophancy earns rewards, there is competition on how best to impress the Prime Minister who loves publicity. Anyway, talking about the photograph of the PM, for his 20 year stint in public life, the External Affairs Ministry could even suggest that the photograph of Narendra Modi should also appear on every Indian passport cover with that of the passport holder inside. This may be followed by photograph on OCI cards and even on E-Visas issued to the visitors from abroad. BJP ruled states can issue ration cards, driving licences etc with the PM's photograph. We only hope that the Election cards will be spared.

AN OPEN LETTER ON SYNODALITY

Respected Cardinals, Archbishops, Bishops, Apostolic and Diocesan Administrators,

Peace of Christ! A week from now our dearly beloved Pope Francis will solemnly open the proceedings for the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in Rome. As per the schedule announced on 7/9/2021 this process is to begin in each particular church from this 17th October.

1. TO ALL CONCERNED: I receive 5 Catholic news bulletins every day. I came across only one assembly for the Synod, in Tripura, that too limited to the clergy of the local diocese. There is therefore a grave apprehension that the preparations for the Synod may not have got the attention that they merit. Hence this Open Letter. It is being sent by email to the 174 ecclesiastical units listed on the CBCI website. It includes retired bishops, apostolic and diocesan administrators. Care has been taken to ensure that this Open Letter reaches every one of you. If there are any errors or omissions, either on the website or on my part, they are unintended, and may kindly be excused. Due to the number of addressees, this will be sent in tranches. Copies are being marked to the Nunciature in India, Catholic Church Reform International, an autonomous body that is monitoring preparations for the Synod across the world, the Catholic Press and concerned members of the Church in India.

2. PREPARATORY DOCUMENT: I have carefully studied the Preparatory Document (PD) and the Handbook (Vademecum) issued on 7/9/21, as both are inter-related. For the benefit of readers who are not in the know, I here note that the Preparatory Document states that the path is that of "A Synodal Church: Communion, Par-

ticipation and Mission" (PD1). The Synod will conclude in October 2023. It says that this renewal which is "proposed by the Second Vatican Council is both a gift and a task" (Ibid). It asks us to "journey together at different levels, listening to the Holy Spirit and remaining open to the surprises that the Spirit will certainly prepare for us along the way" (PD 2). It asks us to include those "who find themselves on the margins" (Ibid), as also "believers of other denominations and religions, civil society organizations, popular movements etc" (Ibid).

3. VADEMECUM: It notes that this Synodal process had already begun on its own initiative in Latin America, the Caribbean, Australia, Germany and Ireland" (V7). It asks us to view the church in the context of "sexual abuse, and abuse of power by clerics and religious" (V8). It considers synodality as an "integral part of the Church's nature. It is not just of bishops, but of all the people" (V10).

"This exercise cannot be self-centred; it must have a missionary dimension by witnessing and reaching out to others" (V13). This May Cardinal Mario Grech wrote to the bishops worldwide asking them to prepare contact persons/ a team for this work, so that the aggregate of responses could be received back by April 2022 (V14). In the absence of any information in the Catholic media one is constrained to conclude that either no preparations have been made, or the laity has deliberately been kept in the dark about these developments. It is for this reason that I reiterate that those who find themselves on the margins must be brought into the mainstream of the synodal process.

4. CHURCH IN INDIA SEMINAR 1969: Permit me to draw your kind attention to the last time a major synodal exercise was held in India – from 15th to 25th May 1969 in Bangalore. This

was preceded by 100 consultations, including 14 regional seminars, and 40 diocesan ones. The regional seminars had 2321 participants of whom 1273 (55%) were laity. The diocesan ones had 6843 participants of whom 4202 (61%) were laity. The findings were aggregated into 16 workshops on different topics. If such a mammoth exercise could be conducted before the advent of IT enabled services like email, WhatsApp, computerised reservations and mobile phones, how much easier would it be today; given the institutional church's heavy investment in means of social communications.

5. STATISTICAL DATA: With Pope Francis I too sense the need for this synod to discern the will of God, because I feel that the church in India is much too institutionalized and clericalised. I have with me Catholic Directories dating back to 1912. However, I shall place before you some findings from more recent ones. Shockingly, between 2003 and 2013 the Catholic population actually shrank in 58/166 (35%) of the dioceses, despite a Decadal Growth Rate of 16% for Christians, as per the Government's census records. I have been careful to ensure that none of these dioceses were bifurcated during the period under review. The shrinkage is across rites and regions. In contrast, between 1969 and 2013, the number of religious sisters tripled from 32,441 to 96,617; and priests increased 2½ times from 8,680 to 22,451. This raw data itself shows that institutionalization and clericalization are, by themselves, detrimental to the life and growth of the church in India.

6. THE WORD OF GOD: This reminds me of Jesus' parable of the Barren Fig Tree (cf Lk 13:6ff). It is no use having deep roots (ancient traditions), a solid trunk (institutions) and heavy foliage (liturgy and sacraments) if we do not bear fruit. If the church is shrinking then it is indicative of the

(Contd.. on p. 7)



by chhotebhai *

Barren Fig Tree that Jesus cursed and it shrivelled away. The Lord's interaction through the Prophet Haggai draws our attention. "Don't you see what is happening to you? You have sown much corn, but have harvested very little. You have food to eat, but not enough to make you full ... You have clothing, but not enough to keep you warm. And the working man cannot earn enough to live on ... You hoped for large harvests, but they turned out to be small. And when you brought the harvest home, I blew it away. Why did I do that? Because my Temple lies in ruins while every one of you is busy working on his own house" (Hag 1:5-9). I will not even attempt to improve on the Word of God.

7. CHURCH TEACHINGS: Perhaps some of you may get upset by a "mere layman" writing to you like this. I am motivated solely by the good of the church that I love, as I firmly believe that I cannot love Jesus if I am indifferent to his people. I am also inspired by current church teachings as found in the "Dogmatic Constitution of the Church" and Canon Law. I quote: "Every layman should openly reveal to them (clergy/ hierarchy) his needs and desires with that freedom and confidence which benefits a son of God and brother in Christ. An individual layman, by reason of the knowledge, competence or outstanding ability which he may enjoy, is permitted and sometimes even obliged to express his opinion on things which concern the good of the church" (LG No 37). "Christ's faithful are at liberty to make known their needs, especially their spiritual needs, and their wishes to the pastors of the church. They have the right, indeed at times the duty, in keeping with knowledge, competence and position, to manifest to the sacred pastors their views on matters which concern the common good of the Church. They have the right also to make their views known to others of Christ's faithful" (Can 212:2,3). Need one say more?

8. MY CREDENTIALS: Some of you would know me through my writings

and the various positions that I have held; others may not know of my contribution to the Church over the last 52 years (I am now 70). If any of you have any doubts about who I am or what I stand for, I would be happy to share my CV with you. However, I may in passing mention that in my latest book The Jerusalem Code that I completed writing exactly a year ago I had correctly predicted that Pope Francis would convene such a Synod as a prelude to Vatican III.

9. A REQUEST: In conclusion I would request you to please immediately form a Steering Committee for the synodal process. It must include lay persons with pastoral experience, and conversant with sacred scripture as well as contemporary church teachings. This committee should begin by identifying the critical areas or factors that hinder the Church from bearing fruit that will abide (cf Jn 15:16).

I remain in the service of the Church, to attain the synodal goals of communion, participation and mission.

chhotebhai
CONVENOR
INDIAN CATHOLIC FORUM
(Email: noronha.kp@gmail.com
Mob: 9415130822)

Subscriptions for

THE SECULAR CITIZEN

Renewal as well as New, can be sent through Bank Fund Transfer to any one of the following banks:

**Bank: HDFC Bank
Branch : CST - Mumbai VT
Account Name: The Secular Citizen
Current Account No. 03552000006744
ISFC code: HDFC0000355**

**or
Bank: Citizen Credit Co-op Bank Ltd.,
Branch : Colaba, Mumbai
Account Name: The Secular Citizen
Current Account No. 2090031000000489
ISFC code: CCBL0209003**

Please inform us through email: secular@sezariworld.com or through phone: 9820485389 after transferring the same.

Ad. Rates for Thanksgiving

Colour B/W
Favours granted minimum
Rs. 800 Rs. 500
i.e. 15 words + 1 block(1 photo of saint)
each additional block Rs. 400 Rs. 300
Holy Spirit Prayer Rs. 1000 Rs. 700

For all your Printing needs under one roof

Books, Folders, Magazines, Office stationary, Leaflets, Handouts, Reports, Cards, Presentations, Religious readings, Designing, Ad designs, Packaging boxes, Cartoons, Exhibition displays, Product Marketing promotional innovations.

**Contact:
The Secular Citizen
Tel.: 9820485389**

'Sharing Food' is a 'Humane' Culture

The 16th day of October is celebrated as 'World Food Day'. This day was designated by the United Nations in 1945, in view of commemorating the date of founding the 'Food and Agriculture Organization' of the United Nations. Raising awareness on concerns regarding 'food and agriculture' was the purpose of the day.

The day was first observed in 1981 and has been celebrated since then by several organizations that are concerned with hunger and food security, in more than 150 countries of the world. 'Feeding the world, eliminating poverty, caring for the earth, growing, nourishing and sustaining life', and the like, have been the core commitment of these organizations.

In line with the priority of the organization that is being commemorated, 'agriculture' is the driving force in the economies of developing countries in particular. But, unfortunately, there has been very little investment in this vital sector. Besides, recent decades have witnessed a slackening of enthusiasm in this regard, too.

Over the years, the 'World Food Day' has considered several themes. A few of them are -- 'food comes first, food and nutrition, fighting hunger and malnutrition, water for all, trees for life, food for all, food security, right to food, food and human culture and sustainable systems of food. 'Safe food now for a healthy tomorrow' is the theme of this year, as well.

The celebration has a large spectrum of concerns by way of objectives. A few of them are -- 'encouraging agricultural production, stimulating national, bilateral, multilateral and non-governmental efforts, promoting economic and technical cooperation among de-

veloping countries and cheering up participation of the rural and the least privileged categories'.

Besides, awareness of the problem of hunger requires being heightened. Technologies have to be transferred to the developing world. National and international solidarity in the struggle against hunger, poverty and malnutrition has to be strengthened. The products of agricultural development have to be shared with one and all, too.

Well, it doesn't need a mention that food is the most basic need of the humans, like other living beings. The corona times, I believe, have been a special occasion for developing an appreciation for having enough food.

The pandemic period, I am sure, has also been moments to think of those who had to go without food, off and on, for dire want of it.

As food is the essence of life, so too, food is the bedrock of our cultures and communities. Food industry is the biggest of the kind in the world. Having access to safe and nutritious food is and will continue to be the essential part of the human endeavour. It is all the more so for the poor and vulnerable communities, who are hit hard by the economic shocks as well as shortage.

'World Food day' is a valuable chance to recognize the key role of 'farmers and workers', who are the heroes of the food system, worldwide. The most miserable plight of the farmers in India, who have been on the roads fighting for their rights nearly for a year, is a major case in point for the insensitive treatment they are measured out to, by those who enjoy the fruit of their labour, tragically so. 'When will good sense prevail' is the question.

For human beings, unlike animals,

food is not merely a means for survival, but is a social act. Sharing food with others is a great gesture of hospitality and having food together is a proof of fellowship with them. When food and drink becomes a way to socialization, the humans acquire a 'humane' culture. In other words, food has to make social beings out of the humans.

At this juncture, it is good to remember how the modern culture of development has made human beings waste food heartlessly in restaurants and homes. Having a huge number of people in India and elsewhere either having no food or less food as well as fighting with dogs to collect a loaf of bread from the dustbin is the other side of the story. This is a major blot on human rights, dignity, ethics, responsible behaviour and governance, terribly so.

The food heroes who engage with agriculture require being appreciated and supported. Wasting food has to be stopped with immediate effect. A humane culture of sharing food with others, the hungry in special, has to be strengthened, all the more. It is high time the humans committed themselves to living ethical values for sustainable food habits in life. The 'World Food Day' is a golden opportunity to awaken the 'human conscience' to that effect.

The sacred occasion of 'World Food Day' is a great opportunity, for citizens of India and the world over, to engage seriously in producing food items in all possible ways and recognize gratefully those who make food products available to us. It is also a time to commit ourselves anew to sharing food with one another as divinely motivated human beings and to ensuring the right to food to one and all. May the good day arrive soon, when all human and other beings will be hav-



Fr. Dr. M. D. Thomas

(Contd.. on p. 9)

God Sends Physicians With Healing And Hope

The good seed bears good fruit, and humanity is always grateful for all the good men and women who dedicate their lives to heal the weak and the sick regardless of their station in life.

First to cure the wounds of the ill is the Hippocratic Oath physicians abide by. Doctors come in all colors, shapes and sizes, all with compassion in their hearts, that's hard to decipher. They live with the daring spirit of a warrior, often breaking rules, disobeying superiors with a spiritual priority to restore the wounded spirit.

Thousands of good physicians die on the battle fields when wars are fought; when battles rage with blind fury – many die unknown, but their soul lives in peace and eternal happiness, knowing they did what they were sent to do.

Covid-19 is an unbelievable scourge of

the 21st century. The horror of the situation can be more vividly remembered by the death of thousands of brave doctors, nurses and their aides, who laid down their lives to serve suffering human beings across the world. Many young volunteers lost their hopes and dreams, leaving heart-broken families and loved ones behind. They were also the good seed sent to be in the forefront to face an invisible enemy.



BY MELVYN BROWN

A true physician is born to be a light to ailing mankind. There is a vibration to be felt of kindness, comfort and peace which radiates

between patient and the doctor. The sick know by instinct the spirit of him in whom the patient has surrendered his being to.

Times are trying, often social honor is at stake, and the dedicated physician has often to be burnished by forces of evil he must resist. The good seed in him always triumphs. Appointed by God the physician makes careful decisions with positive wisdom and precision.

Modern systems of life, under rigid conditions may tempt rogue ethics to waver, where the sick needs immediate attention. In our times, across the

globe of late, renegade rules by insane leaders are the rule of the day, and fear runs riot in countries where freedom is violated.

Physicians I have come across have been responsible, dedicated, radiating a tradition of 'service before self'. They shoulder the heritage of the good seed, uncontaminated by material and warped values.

Have you ever read of a sick apostle anywhere in the New Testament, or a sick prophet in the Old Covenant? The answer would be 'No', for they were the good seed sent by Almighty God.

Saints, prophets, mystics and martyrs, like physicians, nurses, and those entrenched in medicine, have all come from God's fruitful vine to complete their mission of salvation as the good seed. They live on and others come after them. Medical practitioners and their kind are a gift from God and a blessing to His creatures.

The spiritual harvest in the Lord's vineyard have a ready cargo of human health workers, pioneers, researchers, founders of world industries for the benefit of the sick. We Christians join hands with our fellow journeymen of other faiths in the trust and belief that God looks upon all of us as His children.

(Contd.. from p. 8)

ing enough food to eat and the earth will be a welfare state, at least to the minimum!

The author is Director, Institute of Harmony and Peace Studies, New Delhi, and has been committed to interfaith relations, national integration and social harmony, for the past over 40 years. He contributes to the above cause through lectures, articles, video messages, conferences, social interactions, views at TV channels, and the like.

He could be viewed, listened to and contacted at the following portals – websites 'www.mdthomas.in' (p), 'https://mdthomas.academia.edu', 'https://drmdthomas.blogspot.com' and 'www.ihpsindia.org' (o); social media 'https://www.youtube.com/InstituteofHarmonyandPeaceStudies', 'https://twitter.com/mdthomas53', 'https://www.facebook.com/mdthomas53'; email 'mdthomas53@gmail.com' and telephone 9810535378.

Now get your digital copy of

THE SECULAR CITIZEN

through WhatsApp / Email

Subscribers in India and world-over can now get their Digital copy of The Secular Citizen by WhatsApp / email every week.

Annual Subscription : Rs. 600

Contact :

+91 - 9820485389

or

secular@sezariworld.com

Now get your digital copy of



through WhatsApp / Email

Subscribers in India and world-over can now get their Digital copy of **DIVO** Konkani Weekly by WhatsApp / email every week.

Annual Subscription : Rs. 600

Contact :

+91 - 9820485389

or

secular@sezariworld.com

Insights into Colonial Goa

Second Edition

By Philomena Lawrence and
Gilbert Lawrence

Published by Kindle and Amazon as e-book and paperback
Click available to buy on Amazon.
The e-book is also available in India and can be purchased with Rupees

CHAPTERS

Prologue

Goa - Gem along the west coast of India.

Vasco da Gama - Hero or Villain? (1450-1509)

Albuquerque Secures toeholds in Asia.

Shakespearean Tragedy (1509-1515)

Pioneers consolidating Ownership and Displacing Natives. (1510-1570)

European Settlers in Goa.

White Landownership. (1550-1800)

Economy of Colonial Goa. (1515-1800)

Religious Pioneers and Their Contribution

Inquisition in Colonial Goa. Geo-politics and Survival.

Why was the Inquisition introduced to Goa? (1560-1820)

Lusitanian-Indians and the Diaspora

Epilogue

Bibliography

Index

Writing the book

Why do we (native and diaspora Goans) need to learn about Colonial Goa? For the same reason that Indians should read Shashi Tharoor's "Inglorious Empire: What the British did to India." As the author of that book put it so well, "If we do not know where we come from, how do we know where we are going?" Goa of 1510 served as a meeting point of East and West; and was co-opted to connect India with Iberia, and Asia with Europe. For those familiar with the time (15th to 19th century) or place (Asian subcontinent), the reader will have several 'Eureka Moment' as the tome recounts stories of breakthroughs, as civilization moved through various 'Eras of Progress'.

We have spent the last few years researching and documenting interesting information and unanswered issues about Colonial Goa. This led us to

write our just-released 330-page book, "Insights into Colonial Goa." The book is published internationally by Kindle/Amazon in e-book and paperback formats; and is a nexus where history, geography, science, geopolitics, and adventure intersect. So welcome to a journey into the wonder-of-the-unknown and an understanding of how events evolved. The book places the reader in a front-row seat as it takes you through a mind-expanding roller-coaster journey of 500 years.

The first two chapters are designed to introduce Goa to those not familiar with it, including the children of Diaspora Goans, tourists, and would-be tourists to Goa. As Goans in America, we realized that our previously-published books on our multi-cultural background served to introduce ourselves to our colleagues, peers, and patients, who are invariably curious about our names and ethnicity. That information generated understanding, respect, and goodwill. We hope this book will do the same for other Goans (both native and diaspora). Americans and most Europeans are well informed about Columbus' westward voyage in his attempt to reach India. With the exception perhaps of the Portuguese, not many know about explorer Vasco da Gama's daring voyage along the coast of Africa and successful landing in India.

The introductory chapters is followed by an in-depth analysis of the controversial issues surrounding explorer Vasco da Gama (Hero or Villain) and Admiral Alfonso de Albuquerque (Successes and Tragedies), which should be of significant interest to Goans, history buffs, and academics. The account compares the performance of these intrepid adventurers to their counterparts in other European countries during the "Age of Exploration."

The next two chapters are about the Pioneers and the Settlers who made their voyage to Goa by sail-boat. This should pique the curiosity of Portugal's residents and diaspora whose ances-

tors made that challenging voyage. The Goan diaspora, many of whose ancestors made the voyage across the Indian Ocean and Atlantic Ocean to their destination, should also find these chapters sentimental. Perhaps they could re-live the experience of their forebears. This section has a good description of life in colonial Goa which should benefit baby-boomers like us who grew up in colonial Goa, as well as the modern generation to know what life was like without electricity (and gadgets dependent on it), tap-water, and residential phones. The chapters include little-known details about the fruits, vegetables, and flowers which were transplanted from the Americas to Goa as well as those that Goa sent to western countries and their colonies. That explains how Asian mangoes are now grown in Brazil (south of the equator) and shipped to the USA in December and January.

The chapter on the "Economy of Colonial Goa" is a study on how Golden Goa or "BangarachemGoem" prospered and is a fascinating review of the international Age of Capitalism and Mercantilism. Hopefully, this chapter will revive thoughts of how Goa and Goans of today could return to those golden days. We cannot change history, but we can certainly capitalize on our thousand-year heritage and use it to our advantage. This applies to whether we live in Goa or, as a diaspora, left Goa 300, 100, 30, or three years ago.

The final two chapters review the misconceptions associated with the Religious Pioneers and the Inquisition, including a geo-political analysis of the era which answers the question, "Why was the Inquisition introduced to Goa?" Unlike history textbooks which can be dry, boring and sometimes irrelevant, the in-depth data and documents presented in this book present "the story behind the story" and address many burning issues which are still debated and often fictionalized by Goans and others.

The second edition adds an entire chapter (173 pages) devoted to the Goan diaspora. To quote Marcus Gar-

(Contd.. on p. 11)

(Contd.. from p. 10)

vey, "A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots" to which one could add Cesar Pelli "I am a strong believer that as one moves towards the future, the strongest and clearest way to do it is if you have a good sense of your past. You cannot have very tall tree without deep roots." The Goan and Luso-Indian diaspora of once and twice immigrated people reflects the vulnerability of Goan society. To have some cohesion, we need to know and appreciate each-other's history, beyond our own.

The 435 page book has a bibliography comprises the titles of 74 books and papers we examined, studied, and referenced in the text. Of course, we reviewed other books in the course of our research, which were not included in the Bibliography. Making Indian history and geography known to the Goan diaspora and tourists is in an interesting aspect of our story-telling. Those in-the-know can enjoy the nostalgia associated with reminiscing. Please feel free to forward this message to other Goan, Indian, and Portuguese websites as well as share it with your friends and relatives on other social platforms. We hope you enjoy reading the book as much as we have loved writing it. Your thoughts and feedback are always welcome.

Thank you for your attention.
Regards,
Philomena and Gilbert Lawrence

About the Authors

Philomena (nee Pereira) is a granddaughter of Sangolda and Aldona. She graduated from St. Anne's High School in Bombay. After receiving her Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Education degrees from the University of Bombay, she taught at St. Xavier's Boys' Academy and Greenlawns High School, both in Bombay. She is a freelance journalist and her articles about inspiring, creative, and community-minded people have been published in numerous newspapers and magazines.

Gilbert is a grandson of Aldona and Guirdolim. He attended St. Thomas

School in Aldona and Loyola High School in Margao, Goa. He passed the S.S.C. exams in 1961, completed pre-medical courses at St. Xavier's College, Bombay, and received his Medical Doctor's degree from G.S. Medical College in Parel. In 1972, he received his Master of Surgery degree from K.E.M. Hospital and Tata Memorial Hospital. Gilbert migrated to England in 1973 to study radiation oncology. At the F.R.C.R. (Fellowship) examination held in London, he was considered an outstanding student and was awarded the prestigious Rohan Williams medal -- the first non-British student to receive this prize. Gilbert and his wife, Philomena, immigrated to the U.S. in 1977. The Lawrences work and live in Utica, upstate New York.

Reviews on the book

I really enjoyed reading the book, and even got addicted to it. The in-depth information has been very well researched and presented. I recommend every Goan to read the book; the impressive and often little-known historical data presented will make the reader take pride in being GOAN. I was born and brought up in Goa for well over 50 years of my life and educated in Portuguese-medium until the events of 1961.

Joao Manuel Pereira, Canada / Benaulim

Eumuitogostei de ler "Insights sobre Colonial Goa", até fiquei enamorado pelo texto. As informações detalhadas foram muito bem pesquisadas e apresentadas. Recomendo a todos aqueles que leiam o livro; os factos muito impressionantes e muitas vezes pouco conhecidos dados histórico-sapresentados farão com que o leitor se orgulhe de ser GOES.

João Manuel Pereira,
Mississauga Canadá. Nasceu em Goa, e morou em Benaulim.

The book 'Insights into Colonial Goa' makes a fascinating reading of the history of what was colonial Goa, now one of the world's attractive tourist destinations for its sunny beaches. All compliments to authors Philomena and Gilbert Lawrence for the enormous historical research which they would have undertaken to publish this book. A must read for all Indians particularly

Goans and researchers of colonial history Sarosh Zaiwalla: Author of "Honour Bound- Adventures of an Indian Lawyer in English courts" published by Harper Collins. (UK)

I am enjoying the book . . . There is so much in it I didn't know."

Mervyn Maciel, Goan from the East African-English diaspora; and author of Bwana Karani, and From Mtoto to Mzee, as well as several articles and columns. (UK).

Very descriptive. Provides a great picture of Goa. Glossary and map of Goa would help.

Wayne Turkowski (USA)

One of the books that people who are learning about the Portuguese impact on Goa need to read to develop a rounded understanding. . . . It is fascinating! . . . There is more about Vasco Da Gama and Albuquerque than I've seen elsewhere. John Nazareth: Goan from the East African-Canada diaspora (Canada). Author of Clans of a Goan village.

Good resource for Mangaloreans searching for the history of their ancestors, many of whom, both Catholics and Hindus, migrated from Goa for a variety of reasons, which are well-outlined in the book.

Alfie D'Souza: The Mangalorean e-magazine. (India)

<https://www.mangalorean.com/insights-into-colonial-go-a-book-by-philomena-and-gilbert-lawrence-on-kindle-and-amazon/>

I'm an American. After reading "Insights into Colonial Goa," I'd like to travel to India and visit Goa. Starting with the detailed description of the land and people (Goans), to the rich history of the country, it sounds like a place I'd enjoy visiting. While it was packed with detailed information, it was an easy read because it was filled with descriptive stories, action and suspense related to voyages to, and the settlement of Colonial Goa. I had forgotten that history could be both educational and fun to read. See you in Goa.

Fred Ashforth, author of The Speaking Connection: How to connect with every audience and become a successful speaker.

Ghost of Aunty Mable

There was once an Englishman, an Irishman and a Scotsman. One day, they were all going for a walk and came across a strange old house.

"I'll go in first and have a look," said the Englishman.

He looked inside and saw a dollar bill on the table. He went to pick it up and heard a voice: "I am the ghost of Aunty Mable and this note stays on the table!"

The Englishman ran out terrified. So the Irishman tried and he too ran out petrified.

Then it was the Scotsman's turn. He walked in and went to pick up the note and the ghost said, "I am the ghost of Aunty Mable and this note stays on the table!"

So the Scotsman said, "Well my name is Davy Crocket, and this note stays in my pocket!"

--- Jubel D'Cruz

Boy friend texts to his Girl friend on WhatsApp ...

BF - Hi

GF - Hello

BF - Where are you darling...?

GF - I am in my dad's BMW car with my dad. I am going to club and from there I will go to shopping mall. I will send back the car to dad. After dad leaving, I will call you. We can meet. Where are you?

BF - I am in the local town bus just sitting behind you. Don't take the ticket, I have already taken for you....!!

The Engineers and the Busted Car

One day, a Mechanical Engineer, Electrical Engineer, Chemical Engineer and Computer Engineer were driving down the street in the same car.

All of a sudden, the car broke down. The Mechanical Engineer said, "I think a rod broke."



The Chemical Engineer said, "The way it sputtered at the end, I don't think it's getting gas."

The Electrical Engineer said, "I think there was a spark and something is wrong with the electrical system."

All three turned to the computer engineer and said, "What do you think?"

The Computer Engineer said, "I think we should all get out and get back in."

How Mommy and Daddy Met

A boy goes to his father and asks him: "Daddy, how was I born?"

"Ah, very well," His dad sighed. "One day you'll find out anyway. How shall I put it in a way your generation will understand..."

Well," he said "mom and dad got together in a chat room. Dad set up a date via e-mail with your Mom and we met at a cyber café.

We snuck into a secluded room, and then your mother downloaded from your dad's memory stick. As soon as dad was ready for an upload, it was discovered that neither one of us had used a firewall.

Since it was too late to hit the delete button, nine months later the blessed virus appeared. And that's the story!"

A Life Free From Distraction

Tired of the modern world, a businessman visited a monastery to seek a simpler life. Entering the monastery, he saw monks in simple robes practicing their meditations and tending to the grounds.

"Ahh," he thought, "here is a life free from distraction!"

But walking into the study halls, he discovered monks staring into laptops. In the wings, he saw monks

typing on iPads. Shaken by this intrusion of the outside world into monastic life, he sought out the abbot.

The abbot looked up from his phone, greeted the man and asked if he had a question.

"Abbot, I came here expecting a place free from distraction, and yet I see distraction all around. Tell me, is it now acceptable for monks to spend their time answering emails?" "Of course," said the abbot, "provided there are no attachments."

The Wifi Password

A man goes into a bar in the airport and asks the bartender what the password is to their wi-fi.

Bartender: You need to buy a drink first.

Me: Okay, I'll have a coke.

Bartender: Is Pepsi okay?

Me: Sure. How much is that?

Bartender: \$3 Me: There you go. So, what's the wi-fi password?

Bartender: You need to buy a drink first. No spaces, all lowercase.

The health service in this country is miles away from home.

THE SECULAR CITIZEN

News items, Articles, Stories, Opinions, interviews, Poems, etc. may be sent in -

on WhatsApp: +91 9820485389

Via Email:

secular@sezariworld.com

news@sezariworld.com

seculardivo@gmail.com

by Post

The Secular Citizen

99, Perin Nariman Street, 1st Floor, Fort, Mumbai 400001

Please renew your subscription if expired. Mention your subscription no. while sending the renewal amount

Matrimonials

7259. USA : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in August 1994), Ht. 5' 3", Wt.70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Graduate, working. Contact email :

sevu.sequeira@gmail.com

7258. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1993), Ht. 5' 5", Wt.58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Post Graduate, Content Pofessional in a reputed MNC and freelancing as a copywriter ad social media Professional. Contact email : forheralliance@gmail.com

7244. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in August 1992), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 54 kgs, Edn. Chartered Accountant and M.Com., Employed in one of the Top reputed companies in Mumbai. Well cultured and good family background. Only Child. Contact email : fionadesouza18@gmail.com

7243. NEW ZEALAND : East Indian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1996), Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 60 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., Nursing, Profession : Staff Nurse. Ready to settle in New Zealand. Contact email : sales@nomaplastechind.in

7234. MANGALORE : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in November 1993), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 60 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MBBS, MD (on-going), Doctor by profession. Contact email : samaddy2013@gmail.com

7230. MUMBAI : Silm, Smart, Beautiful Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in August 1995), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 50 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working in Pharmaceutical Company. Contact email : alex1947@rediffmail.com

7214. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in October 1986), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 52 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. CA CFA Ms Finance M.Com., working as a Senior Manager. Contact email : frfernandes020@gmail.com

7210. AURANGABAD : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in January 1994), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 50 kgs, Fair Complexion, good looking, beautiful, Coming from business family, Edn. Chartered Accountant, C.A. by Profession. Contact email : putturaurangabad@gmail.com



1. Cut cabbage into large cubes. Wash it in ample water. Drain and allow to dry completely on a cloth or colander. Chop ginger and garlic as well.
2. Add mustard and methi seeds to a blender jar and powder them finely.
3. Add all the ingredients --- cabbage, chilli powder, salt, mustard seeds powder, methi seeds powder, ginger and garlic to a mixing bowl.
4. Pour a little cooking oil over the mixture.
5. Mix everything well and add lemon juice and a little salt. Keep it aside for 6 to 8 hours without refrigeration. After 6 hours you will see that the cabbage begins to release the juices and shrink slightly. Mix well and refrigerate. After two days, transfer it to a glass bottle. Add a little more lemon juice to it. Refrigerate. Your pickle is now ready to be eaten.



Good Proposals

Wide Choice of Christian Brides and Grooms available

Contact:

Royal Christian Family

99, Perin Nariman Street, 1st Floor, Nr. GPO, Fort, Mumbai 400001.

Tel.: +91-9820485389 / 9820473103

Email: royalchristianfamily@gmail.com

Website: www.royalchristianfamily.com

NOMINATIONS FOR ICPA AWARDS 2021

The Indian Catholic Press Association (ICPA), a premier organization of Catholic journalists, dailies and periodicals in India, invites nominations for three annual ICPA awards to be conferred on selected journalists/writers/publications during the forthcoming National Convention of Christian Journalists to be held in Mumbai on 1 December, 2021.

The awards are in the following categories:

1) Fr Louis Careno Award: This award is given to an outstanding Christian journalist or Institution in India for his/her/their courageous contribution to uphold the true ideals of journalism and who have played a prophetic role in reporting/writing on relevant issues in ENGLISH or any other recognised Indian language other than Hindi.

2) Swami Devanand Chakkungal Award: This award is given to an outstanding Christian journalist or Institution in India for his/her/their courageous contribution to uphold the true ideals of journalism and who have played a prophetic role in reporting/writing on relevant issues in HINDI language.

3) Award for Best reportage on SC/ST: This award is for a journalist or a publication for promoting/campaigning for the cause of the SC / ST for a period of at least one year or more.

Procedure for Nomination:

Any person may nominate an individual Christian journalist/publication/institution engaged in journalism and mass communications. No self-nomination will be entertained.

All nominations should include:

- 1) A recommendation letter from a person of repute in the field for the proposed candidate.
- 2) Resume of the candidate and five latest published news stories by the candidate.
- 3) In the case of a periodical, a brief note on its achievements to deserve the award
- 4) Two passport-size photos of the nominated candidate. In case of regional languages, headlines/titles should be in English.
- 5) Contact details of the nominee must be sent in the covering letter only and NOT on the published copies.

The last date for nominations: 30 October 2021. You can email the nominations

For details, please contact:

President: Ignatius Gonsalves:
(Mob: 09447964232)

Secretary: Fr Suresh Mathew (Mob: 07042562963)

E-mail:

indiancatholicpress@gmail.com,
frsureshmathew@gmail.com,

—Fr Suresh Mathew
(Secretary, ICPA)

Matrimonials

7199. BANGALORE : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in January 1990), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 53 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. Master's in Mass Communications (NTU, Singapore) working as a Senior Manager of Corporate Communications in **SINGAPORE**. Contact email :
mafern.2121@gmail.com

7182. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in October 1992), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 72 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., C.A., working as Asst. Manager in TATA Company. Contact : email :
matrimonialp27@gmail.com

7160. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1988), Ht. 5' 7", Fair Complexion, Edn. BMS, working as a Senior Merchandiser in a Global Retail Company in Dubai. Contact email :
prislobo10@gmail.com

7128. MUMBAI : Affluent business family R.C. East Indian Spinster, (Born in 12-04-1988), Ht. 5' 2", very beautiful and pretty. Edn. MS General Surgeon, Doctor by profession. Contact email :
drvd2019@gmail.com

7126. U.S.A. : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in January 1992) from Mumbai, Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 60 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E. (Computers) from Mumbai, M.S. (Information Systems) from US. Possesses H1B visa and is working as a Technical Analyst with an MNC in USA. Contact email :
wilfyjoy1315@gmail.com or call +91 98603 02527 / + 91 9970172527

7066. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in June 1987), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 78 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E., (EXTC) M.S. (International Business Management), working as a Consulting Manager. Contact email :
l2018anselm@yahoo.com

7065. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1989), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 69 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.Sc., & Dip. in Clinical Research, working as Business Process Lead in TCS. Contact email :
mendonca_luke@yahoo.co.in

Promote your products and services. Find new clients

Advertise in

THE SECULAR CITIZEN

Contact:

Tel.: +91 9820485389 /
9820473103

Email: secular@sezariworld.com



DIVO Konkani Weekly

Published from Mumbai
27th year of regular publishing

Subscription rates:

One year by post Rs. 500
Five years by post Rs. 2000

Contact:

Tel.: +91 9820485389 / 9820473103
Email: secular@sezariworld.com

WON'T YOU BE, OK? I THINK YOU WILL BE.

One day when you look in the mirror and suddenly notice a grey hair
Don't panic or fret, it's just a hair. Dye it, own it or flaunt it. It's not going to make difference.
Irrespective of the color, won't you be, ok? I think you will be.

One day when you glance through social media and realize all your friends have scaled new heights.
Don't feel disheartened. Look back and appreciate what you have achieved
Look ahead and plan for better. Irrespective of your position
Won't you be, ok? I think you will be.

One day, when you have nothing to do and feel lonely.
You scroll through your contacts and call an old friend.
But all you get is just a hi and bye.
Don't be disappointed. Probably it's time to make new friends. In the end, it's just one life.
Welcome people who wish to stay by your side.
But if they don't wish to. Won't you be, ok? I think you will be.

One day, when you casually try on clothes and are not able to fit in the clothes you like,
Don't stress out and go on fad diets. Adapt a healthy lifestyle and take one step at a time.
Your worth is not in the way you look but in the way you react.
If the number on the scale is a little high, won't you be, ok? I think you will be.

One day, when you observe the comments on your Facebook posts have drastically reduced and the likes
on your Instagram stories are negligible.
Don't you worry or cut a sorry face? Remember it's not the quantity but the quality of your audience that
matters.
Next time when your phone stops buzzing with continuous notifications
Won't you be, ok? I think you will be

One day, when your signature dish tastes bland, don't question your culinary skills.
Take a break, whip up something easy and relax.
Unwind your thoughts and begin again from the scratch.
If your kitchen turns messy once in a while, won't you be, ok? I know you will be.

One day, if you want to take a break and unwind, do it anyway.
You might miss out on some income or forgo a professional opportunity
But that's ok, as long as you are happy.
If you let yourself go once in a while, won't you be, ok? I know you will be.

One day, when someone notices you but forgets to call you beautiful.
Don't be dismayed and sad. Remember beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder.
Your true beauty is reflected in your personality and a genuine heart.
If you don't receive that validation from others, won't you be, ok? I know you will be.

One day, when you want to say "No!", say it boldly.
It's ok not to always say "Yes". Not all good things are wrapped around a "Yes"
If someone is annoyed by your "No", won't you be, ok?
I know you will be!



by Sonal Lobo,
Bangalore

Royal Christian Family MATRIMONIALS - GROOMS

7218. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in November 1988), Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 68 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., Aviation, working as a Commercial Pilot. 1st Officer. Contact email : dcostajess@gmail.com

7226. CANADA : Canadian Citizen Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in August 1990), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 59 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.Sc., in Environmental Science and in Energy Management postgraduate degrees from the University of Toronto. Working for a reputed company as Energy Management Analyst in Totonto. Contact email : francisper@gmail.com

7184. U.K. : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in April 1990) Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Credit Control in Private company in U.K. Contact email : troyt007@gmail.com

7130. DUBAI : Mangalorean RC Divorcee, (Born in July 1972) Ht. 5'11", Wt. 80 kgs, air Complexion, handsome, simple down to earth, Edn. B.E. (Mech.), Working as an Engineer. Contact email : francisdsouza472@gmail.com OR 00971501532702

7146. MUMBAI : East Indian RC Bachelor, (Born in July 1988) Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 79 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E. (Mech), + PG course in Finance, working as a Asst. Manager in MNC. Contact email : lenin.pdsouza@gmail.com

7180. U.K. : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in September 1982) Ht. 6', Wt. 77 kgs, Fair, Edn. Chartered Accountant, Profession : Director Insurance Company. Contact email : russ_dsouza@yahoo.com

7135. U.S.A. : Mangalorean RC Bachelor, (Born in June 1990) Ht. 5'

10", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E. in Electronics & Telecommunication (EXTC), working as a Senior Software Engineer. Contact email :

ryandcunha01@gmail.com

7144 POONA : Goan RC Bachelor, (Born in October 1985) Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Hotel Management Graduate, working as an Executive. Contact email : merrolmenezes@gmail.com

7129. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in June 1987), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 60 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working in Back Office. Contact email : roshan7687@gmail.com

7185. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in October 1984) Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 72 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working for Bank. Contact email : shaun.neo00.outlook.com

7104. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in August 1975), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 95 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. H.S.C., working as a Office Assistant. Contact email :

agnelo.nazareth1975@gmail.coms

7110. MUMBAI : Goan + East Indian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in December 1984), Ht. 5' 10", Wt.85 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc. IT, working as a Server Engineer. Contact email :

fernandes.raymond@gmail.com

7097 MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in October 1991), Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 97 kgs, WheatishComplexion, Edn. B.Com., working as Sr. Account Recievable in private company. Contact email : dsouzadonald11@gmail.com

7133. MUMBAI: Goan RC Handsome Bachelor, (Born in February 1977) Ht.

5'9", Wt. 78 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., PG, MBA, working as a Sr. Manager in US IT Company. Contact email : trinidadefranco@gmail.com

7045. CANADA : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Divorcee, (Born in September 1985), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 68 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn.B.Sc., Hotel Management, having permanent Resident. Contact email :

bmathias88@gmail.com

7132. MUMBAI : Goan RC Bachelor, (Born in January 1987) Ht. 5'8", Wt. 72 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.A., PG in Advy./ Graphics & Animation, working as a Graphic Designer. Contact email : dcostastephen03@gmail.com

7119. KUWAIT : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in November 1989), Ht. 6', Wt.78 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. F.Y. B.Com. + 2 yrs Hotel Management Diploma. working in Kuwait. Contact email :

fernandes.clayton@rocketmail.com

7118. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in January 1981), Ht. 5' 5", Wt.87 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Graduate, working in Dhoha Metro, in Doha Qatar. Contact email :

josephfernandes10@yahoo.com

7116. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in December 1988), Ht. 5' 9", Wt.79 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Masters in Financial Management, working for US based Investment Bank in Compliance and Audit dept. Contact email :

williamgonsalves123@gmail.com

7114. GOA : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in January 1973), Ht. 5' 5", Wt.70 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. 12th + Dip. in Technical Field, working as a Projectionst in **KUWAIT**. Contact email :

hilarylobo48@gmail.com

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Telephone no. of candidate will be printed only with the consent of members.

For Tel. Nos. Please contact:

+91- 9820473103 / 9820485389 or

Email : royalchristianfamily@gmail.com

To Place Your Matrimonial

Advertisement Call:

+91 - 9820485389 or 9820473103

* Check your email at least once a week.

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

If not settled within a year, renew your membership atleast two months in advance to continue the service uninterrupted.

Royal Christian Family MATRIMONIALS - BRIDES

7247. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in August 1989), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 77 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Com., Teacher by profession. Contact email : doreen.veigas@gmail.com

7195. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in May 1990), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 57 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.Com., well settled. Contact email : melinda.522@gmail.com OR Mob.: 9820561036

7239. CANADA : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in February 1992), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 55 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Completed Bachelor of Electrical Engineering in Toronto. working at a MNC in Toronto. Contact email : walkdowntheaisle2@gmail.com

7194. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in July 1989), Ht. 5' 1", Wt. 55 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.B.A. (HR), HR by profession. Contact email : dsouza.elvina3@gmail.com

7200. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Divorcee, (Born in November 1966), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, good looking, Edn. B.A., Contact email : sylviaarithvi@gmail.com

7143. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1987), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 75 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.A. (Literature) working as a Sales & Marketing Manager. Contact email : irisedsouza@gmail.com

7140. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in November 1991), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 63 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Graduation (BBI), working for a Private Bank as a Deputy Manager. Contact email : glendamisquith9@gmail.com

7142. MUMBAI : Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1981), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 62 kgs, Very Fair Complexion, Edn. MBA (HR) working as a HR Associate. Contact email : sunrays1227@gmail.com

7138. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1984), Ht. 4' 11", Wt. 56 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A.,

working as an Executive Assistant (Secretary). Contact email : labinajena@gmail.com

7141. MUMBAI : Affluent business family Protestant Spinster, (Born in November 1995), Ht. 5', Wt. 55 kgs., Fair complexion, good looking, Edn., M. Pharma, Student. Contact email : saloni.1995naik@gmail.com

7125. CANADA : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in February 1983), Ht. 5' 8", Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.A., working as a Consultant. Contact email : llmendonca@shaw.ca

7127. MUMBAI : Goan R.C. Spinster, (Born in December 1992), Ht. 5' 5", Edn. Ph.D., Student. Contact email : exmi2019@gmail.com

7139. MUMBAI : Maharashtrian Protestant Spinster, (Born in May 1993), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 47 kgs, Fair Complexion, good looking, Edn. B.Com., working as a Sr. Advisor in MNC. Contact email : shirley.jadhav@gmail.com

7124. CANADA : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in October 1993), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.M.S., M.B.A. Operation, working as a Coordinator in Shipping Company. Contact email : carrel.dsouza@gmail.com

7137. MUMBAI : Karnataka Protestant Spinster, (Born in January 1996), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 54 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as an Accountant. Contact email : sujatareddy209@gmail.com

7123. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1987), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., CS., M.Sc., working as a Sr. Manager Programmer. Contact email : r.douza.co@gmail.com

7134. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1992), Ht. 5', Wt. 55 kgs, Wheatish Complexion,

Edn. B.Com., working as a Modification and Writer. Contact email : jacklinemascarenhas@gmail.com

7122. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1993), Ht. 5', Wt. 45 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc. IT., working as a Tech Support Engineer. Contact email : lynnettelewis67@gmail.com

7131. DUBAI : Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1990), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 60 kgs, Tan Complexion, Edn. T.Y. B.Com., working as a Manager. Contact email : rebecca.raj06@gmail.com

7121. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in August 1988), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 55 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. Bachelor of Physiotherapist, working as a Physiotherapist. Contact email : ryanbarboza806@gmail.com

7120. CANADA : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1986), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 51 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., University of Toronto, working as a Customer Support for Canada Government. Contact email : joafaria@yahoo.ca

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

—Flavia D'Mello,
Thane

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Telephone no. of candidate will be printed only with the consent of members.

For Tel. Nos. Please contact:
+91- 9820473103 / 9820485389 or
Email : royalchristianfamily@gmail.com

“...Because I Belong To Jesus!”

By Gepsina Fernandes*

With churches in Mumbai and elsewhere finally re-opening to worshippers, there is exultation in various quarters over the fact that we are now able to take part physically in the celebration of the Eucharist, the source and summit of our Christian faith and life! And so I would like to share with all and sundry the wonders the Lord has worked in my life as a firm believer in the saving power of Jesus, especially in recent times.

At the very outset I would like to thank God for the innumerable opportunities He has given me to praise Him and to testify to His goodness and faithfulness in my life. With Him by my side I have surmounted tragedies galore!

Born in Goa and educated in Karnataka, I was married in Mumbai in 1980 and had two lovely children – a boy and a girl. Unfortunately, in 1987, 7 years into my marriage, I lost my husband, Emerciano, in a drowning accident and I became a widow at the early age of 31 years, my children just 4 and 5 years of age respectively. A graduate at that time, I taught in a private school in Malad East. But my priest brother-in-law motivated me to do my B.Ed so as to qualify to teach in a school nearer home in Malad West. And so it was that I did my B.Ed as well as my Post-graduation before being appointed as a Teacher at Saint Anne's High School, Orlem [now retired since 2014].

To supplement my income I gave tuitions. How I missed the presence of my husband all through my children's academic life and through my own steady growth! By the grace of God my daughter, Friya, finished her Post-graduation and my son, Nolan joined the Merchant Navy where he now Captains a ship.

As a single parent I found it difficult to look out for a suitable boy for my daughter in marriage. But again, with the intervention of God's grace, she got married in 2007. However, as luck would have it, the same year I was diagnosed with Cancer of the rectum. Radiation and Chemotherapy at the Tata Memorial Hospital involved travelling alone to Parel, what with Firya expecting her first child. Though deeply

missing the presence of my spouse who would have been a source of great solace, I do believe that my awesome God was with me. I didn't even lose my hair as Chemo was in tablet form; however, the aftereffects of the month-long Radiation were unbearable. Painful ulcers developing on my thighs and my private parts made walking difficult. Even during Chemo and Radiation I continued to serve God by proclaiming His word as a Lector and assisting at the distribution of His Eucharistic Body to the sick and the aged in their homes.

After the surgical removal of the tumour I was greatly disheartened as the procedure involved 'colostomy'. A colostomy is the surgical opening called a stoma, i.e. a path from the large intestine to the outside of the abdomen. This helps solid waste and gas exit the body without passing through the rectum, into a pouch worn on the outside of the body. With my rectum sutured permanently shut, I couldn't help but wonder how I would dress, wearing my trousers with the bag attached to my abdomen and so on! But God's ways are marvellous! He ensured that advanced medical science offered me a viable option by way of a procedure called 'irrigation' (in simple terms, 'enema', to be done at night whereby I could do without the use of a bag. Now I can dress the way I choose and **am happy to call myself a cancer survivor!**

The Holy Bible says: "The thief comes only in order to steal, kill and destroy" (Jn 10:10a). In 2012, just when I thought that all was going well, I was diagnosed with 'brain tumour'. I knew in my heart of hearts that my God, that great and mighty Healer, who had shown His faithfulness in the past, would not let me down this time round, too. His words, "I have come in order that you may have life in its fullness" (Jn 10:10b) gave me due strength and confidence in Jesus. My post-surgery biopsy indicated a benign tumour – praise God!

When loneliness led me into severe depression I felt it was the last straw on the camel's back. Completely dejected, I looked up to my Lord and asked Him "Why me, Lord! Why me? Please take me to yourself as I have completed my



mission on this earth and I am now ready to be with you!"

This time God spoke to me through Jeremiah 29:11 - "I alone know the plans I have for you, plans to bring you prosperity, not disaster. Plans to bring about a future you hope for." I claimed that promise and now, I am hale and hearty, free from all illnesses!

Joy fills my heart when I recall how the first wave of COVID-19 gave me two specific reasons to further glorify God for His goodness to me! First, my mother was admitted to the ICU with Pneumonia and there were fears expressed about COVID-19 affliction itself being a possibility. But the Lord healed her within 7 days, promptly putting to rest all doubts and fears, setting her free from all ill health.

Next, when I was due to fly to Goa, the mandatory RT-PCR Test report landed me in a COVID Care Centre on the faulty premise of having contracted COVID-19. Imagine the discomfiture of having to sleep, eat, drink and do all medical tests in the open company of some 200 to 300 strangers, all Covid patients! To cut a long story short, after further tests I was finally declared COVID free! Nevertheless, many feared that my close 4-day 3-night long exposure to the virus could eventually have its effect. But my Jesus was with me! With his hedge of protection around me I have remained hale and hearty, Covid free!

A widow for the last 34 years, I know firsthand how difficult journeying through life without the company of

(Contd.. on p. 19)

Kanara Entrepreneurs (KE) holds its “Bi-Monthly Members Meet” with a theme on equity investment options for MSMEs

Kanara Entrepreneurs (KE), a non-profit business networking organisation, based in Bengaluru conducted their bi-monthly members’ meet after a gap of 6 months, post easing of Co-vid restrictions. This meeting was held on October 8th 2021 at the Hotel Grand Magrath, Bengaluru.

Recognized for creating business networking opportunities for entrepreneurs, KE amplified the event with stalls, and business sharing through demos, and marketing. This proved to be a good post-co-vid boost for entrepreneurs and professionals who attended the event.

The event started with the induction program for 21 new members who joined the organization; This program was facilitated by Mark D’souza, a founding member, and past president of KE. Pramod D’Souza, Director – Membership administered oath to all the new members. Clarence Pereira, President, KE handed over the membership kit to new members.

Speaking at the meeting, Mr. Clarence Pereira, President- KE said “In every-



thing we do, we aim to create opportunities for entrepreneurs to get to know, and network with one another as fellow members of this organization. And our latest monthly meet for October 2021 was a true testament to that vision for KE, as we saw our organization further expand and extend its team, having inducted 21 new members, and passionate business tycoons in the making.

KE also provided its members with an opportunity to pitch their businesses to the gathering. This event included business introductions from 3 members:

- 1) Eric D’Silva, of TrustBuild Pvt Ltd: spoke about providing a robust Online Tech platform for the construction of Residential Houses, Villas & Apartment, which encompassed seamless integration right from Idea conception, Idea Finalization, Signing Documents, Monitoring Construction Progress, Meeting Deadlines and Handing over the keys with tech as the interface. Mr. Eric said that adaption of the latest technology would be the game changer in the Residential Construction industry;
- 2) Canute Sunil, of Ishasol Energies, spoke about solar panels with Israeli Technology and spoke of his success story, of installing the solar paneling at St. Aloysius College, Mangalore, where the college reported huge savings in electricity bills. The solar Panels generated enough power to allow the college save paying E-bill for 3 months straight to the Electricity board. He also spoke about a new AC technology that helped cooling better even in temperatures where regular AC’s would struggle.
- 3) Finally, Charmaine of Charm’s

Homemade Goodness showcased her cakes, flavors, icing, and filling - rarely using fondant with the main focus on flavor. She also showcased a new flavored cake called the Rum-Orange cake.

Eric D’Silva, Director of Marketing & Sponsorship later shared his thoughts on marketing initiatives for KE, including the official KE newsletter, and KE’s presence on various social media platforms. He also shared case studies on how KE has helped grow other businesses among KE members. All members were urged to help spread the word of the mission and purpose of KE; to build a strong foundation of entrepreneurs from the Kanara region.

The event also included a ‘How To Grow Your Business’ mentorship program that was presented by Sunil Attavar, where he advised members on how to tackle business challenges, and how they can take their business to the next level. One of the key learnings from Sunil’s program - Let your ‘Why?’ determine your ‘What?’, and ‘How?’, which has successfully proven to benefit entrepreneurs in the process of finding clarity, meaning, and fulfillment from their business venture.

Pramod D’souza, was the keynote speaker and talked about the various equity funding options for MSME founders including raising funds through Initial Public Offering (IPO) going to the stock market. He highlighted the preparation founders need to do before raising funds.

(Contd.. from p. 18)

my spouse and coping with its vicissitudes can be. But my beloved Lord, Jesus Christ, is constantly by my side. **Not for nothing have I tattooed my right hand with the declaration: “I BELONG TO JESUS!”** Overcoming life’s challenges and trials merely clinging to Him, I have triumphantly proved my God victorious! Jesus my Healer is my Protector, my Provider, my Spouse, loving and caring like no other! His words assure me of His abiding presence—“I will never leave you nor forsake you” (cf Deut 31:6); “I have carved you on the palm of my hand!” (Isa 49:16a) How I love you Jesus! Praise you Jesus! Thank you, Jesus! Hallelujah!!

**As told to
Ladislau Louis D’Souza*

Royal Christian Family

Try our 'Gold Super Success' service

Register at Royal Christian Family and
 opt for 'Gold Super Success' service.

Leave your worries of finding Good Proposals to us.
 We take the responsibility.

Our 'Gold Super Success' service works for the best result.

For more details contact : 9820485389

Royal Christian Family

99, Perin Nariman Street, Fort, Mumbai 400001

Tel.: +91 9820485389 / 9820473103

Email: royalchristianfamily@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.royalchristianfamily.com>

The Best and Easy Way to Get Rid of Mosquitoes

Use

Bistar



- Approved by WHO Denmark
- Certified by Government of India

- Gives protection from mosquitos for 3 months
- Bistar can be used: in house, housing societies, Lawns, Hospitals, hostels of various colleges.

For more details contact : Tel.: +91 9820485389 / 9820473103 Email: secular@sezariworld.com