

THE ANSWER

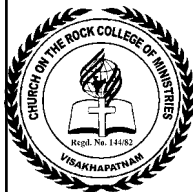
The Voice of the Indigenous Missions in India

Vol. 29, No. 2, July. - Dec. 2011



Keep your head and your heart
in the right direction and
you'll never have to worry about your feet

We wish you a happy and prospers New Year



The Answer

The Voice of the Indigenous Missions in India
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Editorial..

Greetings to the readers of 'The Answer' in the blessed name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Its Christmas again! A time to rejoice, remembering the greatest gift, Jesus Christ who was given so that you and I could share in the eternal goodness of God.

I think back to one of the noble characters who did not have significant utopian experience like the other characters of Christmas, but he is known for being righteous. The time when God visited this man was a time when there was no revelation from heaven for the past 400 years. Sounds like God, in all this time was in search of a man like him and he was a great find for God. That is the reason God speaks to the Galatian Church through St. Paul that in the fullness of time, God sent His Son born of a virgin (Gal. 4:4).

We find a man who is found worthy to become a channel of blessing to mankind. Yes, I am talking about Joseph, the betrothed, soon to be husband of Mary.

In the midst of darkness, Joseph comes across as a beam of light, a ray of hope for God to use. The Bible says in Rom. 3:23 that there is none who is righteous, but here we see that Joseph is commended to be a righteous man. While there was none righteous, Joseph was different, as he is a righteous man in the midst of an unrighteous people.

Today unrighteousness is on the prowl, it is just at our doorsteps. Off late, people have become aware of a lot of things that were not accessible a few years ago. The 'Right to Information Act' gives us all the information about the sanctions of the Govt. for any of the projects announced by it. Therefore we have an axis to know information from the announcement of the project to its inauguration. In spite of all such accessibilities, we see that there are people, the so called leaders/officers, who take the advantages of the loop holes in the system and do unrighteous deeds. They seem to flourish in all their wicked ways.

A believer working in such a setting may feel out of place. Also there may be some others who eventually have compromised with the status quo.

Today, we have a lesson to learn. Joseph was a man who was also living in evil conditions. It was very easy for him to get himself entangled with the status quo, but the silent testimony of Joseph has

wonderful lessons to learn. It motivates us to be different, subsequently keeping us available for God to use as a channel of blessing for others. Joseph may have gone through a lot of stigma in his personal life, but through it all he obeyed God's will to be a channel of mercy to many. Let us ponder over this silent testimony and may the longing of being available to God fill your lives with the real joy of Christmas. God bless you.

*Mr. D. A. Sunil Kumar is on the Faculty &
Dean of Students of COTRTS*



From the Founder's Desk ...

Dear Friends,

Christmas Greetings from India!

It is my honor and privilege to reach you again by this page of gratitude to God as he has given us one more successful year in all departments of our ministries.

The world is yet preparing for another Christmas and New Year. At this juncture we think about the Birth of Jesus, which tells us that God entered into the limitations of time and space taking human form to accomplish His redemptive purposes. He revealed His Father's purposes in Luke 19:10. "For the Son of man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." The birth of Christ is the birth of a Savior, (Math.1:21) birth of faith in the promises of God.

Most of the people live with the fear and anxiety of the future in their hearts, but the people of God live in the futuristic hope of the coming of Lord Jesus Christ. He is the hope of our future. "God is with us" (Emmanuel). The good news of Jesus is unchanging news. Looking unto Jesus we shall run the race with faith, with joy, enduring the cross for the joy set before us (Heb.12:1-2).

In the months of August and September 2011, I had the privilege to visit Australia along with my son Jameson Titus. I had visited Melbourne, Brisbane, Sidney, Perth, etc., and met many supporters and relatives. I received a warm welcome everywhere I went. God strengthened me to be a witness of His ministry that is happening in India through C.O.T.R. and NTC ministries. I was well pleased when I met many of our alumni, who studied in our theological college and related institutions. On my way back to India, I had a great time at the Mission Conference which was arranged by Dr. Gladwyn Turner in Singapore. I shared about the beginning of our ministry in India and how wonderfully the Lord has helped us to grow. We enjoyed the fellowship of Asian missionaries and had a great time of prayer.

God's mercy was with me in the entire tour. God had enabled me to meet all our relatives, friends and prayer partners who have reiterated their prayers and support for our ministries. Praise God for His mercies.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to every individual who extended their prayers and support all these years. I appreciate your continuous cooperation. God Bless You All.

May this Christ filled Christmas bless you richly and in the coming NewYear,

May God be real to you than ever before.

*Mary Titus is the Co-Founder of
COTR College of Ministries*



From the President's Desk ...

Dear Friends, Prayer Partners, Family of COTR,

Greetings in Jesus name.

I thank God for His faithfulness and mercy on our family, ministries for the last 30 years. We are very honored to celebrate our 30th Anniversary this coming Feb. 22-25, 2012 as part of our Alumni Day and Graduation/Pastors conference. This year has been busy, blessed, and His favor was upon all ministries.

We as humans have our trials and problems, but His grace has helped us through all these. We want to thank all our prayer partners around the world for keeping us in their prayers and thoughts. God continues to provide all our needs, kept us safe from harm, and has allowed our ministry to grow and prosper. Praise the Lord.

I and Helen were blessed to be able to go to USA for 2 months Sept.-Oct. to meet all our friends, family, and partners. We were honored to speak and represent our ministry at several missions' conferences and churches. This was Helens first time to USA, she was blessed by all the people she met and got to see new things and go to many places in USA. We traveled over 2 thousand miles by car going from state to state to attend meetings. God kept us safe in all this.

We want to thank all the host families, churches that provided for our housing, travels. We were able to enjoy our time with family after long time.

While we were on our missions trip, mummy looked after all the ministries along with our children and we thank her for taking care of all responsibilities.

COTR had a blessed year, with many teams coming from different countries to see what God is doing in India. We had our pastors meetings, many church dedications, and various educational institutional programs that were conducted successfully. The Seminary 1st Semester and the Evangelism Outreach programs were a great success and a blessing to all.

As we celebrate 30 years of Gods faithfulness, we want to invite all our friends, alumni, pastors to come for the celebrations this Feb. 22-25, Dr. David Shibley, Dr. Gladwyn & Helen Turner will be guest speakers for the meetings. Please come and make this a great success and give God all the Glory.

On behalf of the Titus family, COTR College of Ministries I want to thank you all for your prayers, support, favor towards our ministry. May Gods favor and blessing be upon you this New Year.

Continue to keep us in your prayers, as we pray for you also.

God Bless

Johnson Titus
President

Rev. Johnson P. Titus
President
COTR College of Ministries



Times and Seasons

Reji Varughese

Introduction: The Bible is the only book in the world that discusses about the past, present and future events without any contradiction. The sixty-six books of the Bible gives us the relationship between the past, present and future records. The main content of the Bible is the salvation history of mankind. The Bible only gives us the historical records and future events needed in our spiritual life. After reading this article, it is better to find out the answers for the following questions by yourself. How am I spending my time in my life? What is my role in the contemporary period? Which are the necessary steps that I need to take to fulfill the will of God today? What do I need to do for my eternity?

1. Biblical Teachings of Past

History is one of the very interesting subjects. Human knowledge has a lot of limitations to study the history and future. It is good to say that without the help of God, nobody in this world can find out all the truths from history. The Bible gives us ideas about past events. Biblical records of past events are true.

1.1. Eternity Past

God was in the beginning (Psalms 90:2, Proverbs 8:22-31). This period we can call as an eternity past. God was the only one in that period. God is self consistent, so he doesn't need any help of others. The Bible is not talking anything about the beginning of God, other than these verses. In the past eternity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit were there.

1.2. Creation of Heaven and Earth

Testing period of Angels: God created heavens and angels (Genesis 1:1). God created all these for his glory (Psalms 19:1). God gave a testing period to all the angels.

Fall of angels till the creation of Adam and Eve: In this period one of the angels, Lucifer committed sin against God and turned one third of the heavenly angels against God (Ezekiel 28:11-19). They are now known as evil spirits. God punished these angels. Sin of the fallen angels had created formlessness and emptiness on earth (Genesis 1:2). After that, God created human beings. God appointed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. The Serpent betrayed Adam and Eve, they also committed sin against God. God punished them and sent them out of the Garden of Eden (Genesis 1-3).

1.3. After the Fall until Noah's Period

Conscious Age: Outside the Garden of Eden human beings started to offer sacrifices to God for their sin. For example, Genesis chapter four is talking about the offerings of Cain and Abel. At the end of this period, human beings committed sin against God. Everybody walked in their own way except Noah and his family. God destroyed all the people on the earth at the time of Noah, because of their sins (Genesis 4-9). God is not looking for majority; rather He is looking for people who obey His commandments. In this period, God spoke to the people through their conscience.

1.4. From Noah until Abraham

The Generation of Noah can be classified into two categories. First group was all those who walked in the presence of God and the second group was all those who rejected God's commandments (Genesis 10-11). All those who rejected God started various religions and started to worship other gods and goddess. At the end of this period God called Abraham from Shem's generations (first Group). Abraham was the descendent of Shem (Genesis 11:31). After the Noahic flood, the lifespan of human beings decreased.

1.5. From Abraham until Mosaic period

Patriarchal Stage: The origin of Israel's history starts with the calling of Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3). God separated a special group of people through Abraham to bless other people or testify the name of YHWH. During this period God did not give any particular written laws to Abraham. God spoke to him directly, through visions, dreams and through angels. Patriarchs followed oral laws and traditions in their spiritual life. From Abraham until Joseph's period, it is known as the patriarchal stage (about 350 years).

1.6. From Moses until John the Baptist

Period of Laws: At the time of Moses, God gave written laws to all the Israelites (Exodus 20:1-16). All the ethical laws of the Old Testament show the ethical standard of God, especially through the Ten Commandments. Important events in these periods are conquering stage, Israelites fully under the priestly rule, Judges period, Kings period (Monarchy periods and divided kingdom period), Exile period (Israel and Judah both countries went to exile) and Inter-Testamental or Silent years (four hundred years) period.

1.7. From John the Baptist until the formation of Church

The period of John the Baptist: The silent years had been breaking with the arrival of John the Baptist. At the time of John the Baptist, God commanded all the people to take baptism from John to receive the justice of God (Mathew 3, Luke 1). John the Baptist was the forerunner of Christ. John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord.

The period of Jesus: Jesus' birth divided the history into two: B.C. (Before Christ) and A.D. (Anno Domini). Important events of this period were Jesus birth, life, works, death (at the age of 33 ½ years), resurrection (3rd day after death), ascension (40th day after resurrection: Acts 1:2) and sending Holy Spirit to the Church on the day of Pentecost (10 days after ascension or 50th day after Passover festival).

2. Biblical Teachings of Present

We all are living in the end of 2011. Hinduism and Jainism teach that this is the last stage (Yuga). They believe a cyclical process of universe, but the Bible opposes this view. According to scientific development, we call this period as a Hi-Tech Period or Nano-Age. In this globalized world, technologies are changing very fast. The Bible teaches that the world is going into its last state. Our future life is connected with our present life, that means whatever the decisions we take and the things we do today will impact our future.

2.1. From the Origin of the Church until the Second Coming of Christ

Period of Grace: Period of grace started with the origin of the Church (Day of Pentecost, Acts 2). Accepting Jesus Christ is the only way to get

salvation in this period. The Bible says our good works, deeds and religious activities, only will not be able to take us to heaven. In this period, the church is waiting for the second coming of Jesus Christ. Are you prepared for the same?

3. Biblical teachings of Future

Science does not give clear teachings about the future events, but they are giving some possible suggestions of the future of this universe. Where can we get the clear teachings about the future events? The Holy Bible is our answer, it gives a clear picture about the future events (Mathew 24:3-51, Revelation). Our God is the controller of the future. Reading and studying the Bible will help you to know your future. All kinds of prophecies in the world can be discerned in the light of the Bible.

3.1. Tribulation period

Seven years of tribulation will start on earth after the appearing of Jesus Christ in the mid heaven to take his bride, the church. In this period, the Church will be in the mid heaven (Revelation 5-19) with Jesus Christ. All the people on this earth who are not raptured will go through the tribulation period.

3.2. Thousand Year Reign

A thousand years of reign will start after the tribulation period. Jesus will come to this earth with His bride, the Church to rule over the earth in peace and tranquility. (Revelation 20:1-7). All the people in this world will experience justice, peace and joy under the Kingship of Jesus Christ. Do you like the Lordship of Jesus Christ?

3.3. Eternity

Eternity will start after the great white throne

judgment. The Eternity period can be classified into two:

- 1.) People are with God (Heaven).
- 2.) People are under the punishment of God (Hell) (Revelation 20:11-Revelation 22).

All the saints of God will spend time with God in a new heaven and new earth (Revelation 21). In the presence of God nothing remains as old. Do you have an assurance to go to heaven and spend time with God in eternity? The concept of eternity cannot be measured with our intellectual capacity. God's time and seasons will not be less than eternity, because our God is an Almighty, all-knowing and omnipresent God.

Conclusion

The Bible recorded the past, present and future events for the spiritual life of human beings. It is our responsibility to know the importance of these periods and use our time and talents for the glory of God. Our God is an eternal God. The Biblical concept of eternity reveals the glory of God. The Good News is for us "God chose us to live with Him in eternity through Jesus Christ." Do not waste your time. It is our responsibility to use the times and seasons very carefully for the glory of God. Today, if we live for Christ, we can spend our eternity with God. May God Bless you!

(The author referred Dakes Anointed Reference Bible and the H. L. Willmington's book Willmington's Guide to the Bible for the preparation of this article)



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Faith and Hope

P. Inaho Yeptho

INTRODUCTION: Human beings rest their hope and faith on something or the other. But unless our faith is in God and growing, we will fail to achieve the purpose for which we were created. God requires that we have faith and hope in Him. It is God who gives us such faith (Heb, 11:6; Roman 10:17.) Therefore, faith is necessary in Christian life. The foundation of Christian faith is Christ's death and resurrection. Today, many Christians live without faith and hope, therefore, the need of the hour is to derive lessons from the heroes of faith from the Old Testament who had great faith and hope in God, and to follow their good example.

1. THE MEN OF FAITH AND HOPE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Mentioned below are some of the outstanding people in the Old Testament who had strong faith and hope on the promises of God.

1.1. Abraham: Father of the Faithful

Abraham was called out by God from his father's house and his country, Ur. He responded to the call of God with great faith and hope, and was faithful to Him. When Isaac, his son was 25 years old, Abraham was called to sacrifice his only son Isaac, who was most precious to him. Isaac was placed on the altar for a sacrifice, but was saved by Abraham's faith (Gen. 22). Abraham did not question God; he knew and believed that God had the power to raise the dead. It was God's responsibility to fulfill His promises, and his responsibility is to obey God's command. Abraham had a strong faith in God; he knew for

sure that God was able to fulfill His promise. Therefore, Abraham lived with great faith and hope, throughout his life, and died when he was about 175 years old. Today, we call him as the father of the Faithful.

1.2. Isaac: Faithful Father

Isaac was the son of promise to Abraham and Sarah (Gen 17:19). Sarah bore Isaac to Abraham at an old age. This was the first fulfillment of God's promise in the history of Israelites. Isaac wife was Rebekah, whom he married when he was forty years of age. Isaac also lives like his father Abraham and by faith he blesses Jacob and Esau in regard to their future, (Heb.11:20). We see him as a father who is concerned about the future of his sons, that his sons should inherit the Promised Land that was promised to his Father and hence a faithful father.

1.3. Jacob (Israel) – Faithful Grandfather

Jacob was the father of twelve tribes of the nation of Israel. He lived with faith and hope. On his death bed, by faith, he blessed each of Joseph's sons, i.e., his grandchildren (Hebrew, 11:21). Before he died he gave instruction to his son Joseph and his people to bury him with his father, in a cave in the field of Ephron the Hittite, the cave in the field of Machpelah, near Mamre in Canaan, which Abraham bought as a burial place from Ephron the Hittite along with the field, and buried Abraham, Sara, Isaac, Rebecca, and Leah. Jacob gave clear instructions about his death, but he had a hope that surpassed the grave. Therefore, unlike Isaac, in spite of blessing his sons, he is

blessing his grand children. He is preserving the blessings of the Promised Land that he had carried all his life, not just to give them to his immediate successors, his sons, but his hope extends much further into the next generations.

1.4. Joseph- A Faithful Young Dreamer

Joseph was the son of Jacob and Rachel. Who was disliked by his brothers for the dreams and favor showed him by his father. He was sold by his brothers to Egypt and became the servant of Potiphar in Egypt. Joseph met an unfortunate trouble in the house of his master. He was put into prison, but as he was having good relationship with the God of his fathers, and thus was able to live with great faith and hope. He kept his young life chaste and pure because he did not want the temporal pleasures of the world to deter his divine hope of the Promised Land.

Genesis 50:24-26 is a history about faith and hope on the promise of God. Because, when Joseph was about to die he said to his brothers that God would surely come to their aid and take them out of the land of Egypt to the Promised Land, because God had promised the same to Abraham. He told them that they must carry his bones to the Promised Land. Joseph died at the age of a hundred and ten years. When he died, they embalmed him and placed him in a coffin in Egypt. During the time of Exodus from the bondage of Egypt, Moses took the bones of Joseph with him because Joseph had made the sons of Israel swear an oath. He said that God would surely come to their aid, so they must carry his bones to the Promised Land. (Exodus 13:19). The history of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph are the history of faith and hope on the promises of

God. They had enough experience of the faithfulness of God. They strongly believed that God would fulfill His promises which He made to Abraham.

2. FAITH AND HOPE OF THE JEWS DURING THE BABYLONIAN EXILE:

Nebuchadnezzar (605-562 B.C.), conquered Judah and carried the Jews into captivity, and they were there for seventy years. The Jewish people, during the exile did not lose their faith and hope in the future glory of Zion which was prophesied by Isaiah, (Isaiah 54:1-3). Therefore, the Jewish leaders, though in captivity, always kept their faith and encouraged their brethren to keep up their faith and hope. They accepted the responsibility that God gave them to participate in the Governance of the Babylonian Empire under Nebuchadnezzar's rule (Daniel Chapter 1-6). The leaders of the exilic period realized that it was God's will that they coexist with the Babylonians. They decided to help the rulers of Babylon and Medo-Persia in creating a climate that would be conducive for peace and prosperity. On the one hand they showed firm adherence to the fundamentals of their faith, even willing to sacrifice their lives for the same, on the other hand they showed immense cooperation and made positive contribution towards the economic growth and prosperity of Babylon. After seventy years of captivity God used Cyrus, king of Persia, who allowed the Jewish people to return to Jerusalem to rebuild their Temple and resettle in their native land. Therefore after 70 years, we see that their faith and hope were fulfilled.

3. CHRISTIAN FAITH AND HOPE

We Christians believe that Jesus Christ has been revealed to us, as the only way to salvation. In

the words of the Apostle Peter as recorded in the book of Acts, “salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved” (Act.4:12). Christians emphasize Jesus Christ as the full and final revelation of God. Hence there is no hope outside Jesus Christ.

Christians have a definite hope through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace, in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. We rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope doesn’t disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. (Roman 5:2-5).

In the Old Testament, God made a covenant with the Jews which was confirmed by the sprinkling of blood (Exodus 24:8), in the same way, the new covenant mediated by Jesus was confirmed by sprinkling of Christ’s own blood (Mark 14:24, Hebrew 9:18-22). Through the blood of Christ we are cleansed from our sin, we receive forgiveness not only for past sins, but also for sins committed daily. The blood of Jesus purifies us from all sin (1 John 1:7).

Christian’s faith and hope begins in the great mercy of God and the promise of God about the reward of eternal life. His mercy is so great that it gave us a new birth, and hope (John 3:3-5, Roman 8:24; Titus 3-7). We received the living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Because Jesus rose from the dead, all Christians will also rise from the dead, and will gain victory over death, and will receive an

inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—namely eternal life. This inheritance is kept for Christians in heaven. God gives good gifts to all men, but He gives inheritance only to His children (Roman 8:16-17; Galatians 4:4-7). The above mentioned are the gifts of God and the promise of God regarding eternal life.

CONCLUSION:

We have learned from the faith and hope of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, and the people of Israel during the Babylonian exile, how they depended on the promise of God, and also on His faithfulness. The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, never breaks His promises. Christians believe that Jesus is the Son of God who was with the God of Israel from the beginning. He became flesh and dwelt among the people and died for the sinners, rose again and ascended to heaven with the promise of coming back to give the reward that He promised (Eternal life).

Paul speaks of Jesus Christ being the believers’ hope not only for this world, but also for eternity (1 Timothy 1:1 and II Cor. 1:5). Paul has expressed this truth in a number of formulations such as “The God of hope” “Abound in hope” and “Rejoice in your hope.” (Romans 15:13). For Paul all these are realities in life only when we accept Jesus as our Lord and savior. Many Christians are losing their faith and hope on the promise of God. Therefore, we the Christians should not lose our faith and hope on the promise of God through Jesus Christ.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with all God’s people and all those who read this. Praise the Lord!

WHO AM I : AN IMAGINATION

Blessy Reji

My ancestors were the custodians of earth when the signs of life formed on earth. No one has much to say about us. God the creator of this world enabled us to be His creatures and be a part of His creation. Friends, I mentioned earlier that my ancestors were not that significant, that does not mean that in the real sense we were insignificant and considered by none.

Even though the world does not respect us, in the past God used one of my ancestors to do one important thing in history. It is recorded in the everlasting and ever changing Word of God. It is also recorded very clearly that the creator of this universe is so caring for us.

We are very sharp in searching opportunities to snatch things belonging to others. We never walk or look straight. We always disturb others and we try not to be under the control of anyone. We spread any news within seconds like wild fire. We care for none. We are a nuisance to all. The universe dislikes us. Yet we are part and parcel of the eternal creative art. Our motto is, give not but get things at any cost. You may wonder at my words.....Oh God! How can these beings with such a trade mark be a part of God's creation?

Dear friends, as an elder member of this group with lots of experience, I wish to reveal one important fact before you. We try to get our daily needs done through lots of crooked and wicked means. Many a times, I think we can earn things without any hard work. God has already provided everything for us. We are able to enjoy it without much pain. But the greed within us makes our life very adventurous and ugly, I tried to avoid such a

pattern of life. In spite of the awareness which is within me, that is, in season and out of season, God can provide for us; greed makes me to turn towards the worst, at the best, at any cost, through any means. I get it and I proudly declare I achieved it by my might and strength. At this moment I feel it to be a folly. You may think, why such a repentance?

Dear friends, when I explain the reason, you will understand it very clearly. During the last three weeks it was very hot. In my village a bunch of special trees were filled with lot of fruits during these three weeks. I like those fruits a lot. I went and checked on one tree to see whether the fruit was ripe enough to eat. But all of them were raw. All my friends were making lot of noise, fighting with each other and we were restless, hungry and angry. We were having lot of other fruit around as to eat, yet we starved aiming for the best and tried to reserve it for ourselves. After a restless journey under the hot sun myself and most of my other friends were affected with boils in our mouth. By that time the hot sun made all the fruits very yummy and colorful. The branches bowed down their heads with beautiful gifts to all. The cool breeze carried the sweet aroma of this precious fruits. Our mouths were filled with water because of the busted boils within our mouth, it started to pain and itch. So we all became very sad. No more fighting, no quarrels to pick up the best. No running to get first. We all went aloof and mourned looking at these trees. All the fruits started to fall one by one, and laid on the ground and started to rott, and spread a bad smell and the worms ate them all.

Dear friends from my experience, I would like to give one advice to you. You and your generation should not fall into this pit like us. When you strive more for the best by trusting in your might, you may struggle with your frailty. Your life is a gift in an earthen bowl. God wants you and your generation to enjoy your life by depending solely on to Him. Don't adopt any measures such as snatching, fighting, hunting for the best at any cost and blindly running to reserve the best at first and end up having everything which gives you only pain.

Hereby I request you to follow what the young ones in my family do. They are very weak and they are cared by none and a nuisance to all. They are not beautiful and their voice disturbs the whole universe. But whenever they are in need they simply cry.....cry and cry. Their cry reaches to the eternal creator and preserver of this universe and He provides to them all what they need without fail. It is very carefully recorded in your Holy Book. But as they grow they start to believe in their might and strength and wisdom. They slowly try to do things and solve their problems by themselves and fall into many traps. Many times they think they are very wise, but their eyes were blinded by their pride. When you see such scenes you have to think about it. You can cry amidst of any storm to God and He will help you, but when you try to fly above by yourselves it will shatter you.

I am telling all these because I just don't want you to be in trouble. In happiness and distress cry unto God and God will give you every moment what you need, so that your feeble wings will become strong and you will be able to fly.... fly...fly beyond your expectation. But you have to remember always that your wings were made strong by God's provision. Never forget or

become lazy to fly when you are strong and as you fly never forget the unseen hand of God which has kept you away from your strong enemy and from the unseen and sudden dangers that came against the very existence of your life. You may see many fly much higher than you and never acknowledge the help of God in their life, and they say all what I do is just because of my ability. They may despise you and they may prosper in all their attempts. Then you may feel that all what I say is wrong. They may not be having the problems which you face every day. They may be progressing more in their life than you. Here you may wonder at certain times in your life all what you believe is wrong and it stands as a hindrance so that you are not able to fly that high and you are going to be destroyed completely. You see them boasting in their might and power and they never wanted to see God's power and their helplessness without God's provision in their life. The merciful God provides generously to all His creatures as they are the work of His hand. God provides to all, but, God knows who knows Him and helps them to fly fearing nothing and even to fly above the challenges of the venomous enemy of the human race that is death. Till that time..... you are free to cry and ask God at any time in any situation and in spite of all your helplessness, help you.

Dear friends as you were reading these lines I think you understood WHO I AM if not just to reveal myself I will explain one important incident recorded in your Holy Book. In that record one of my ancestors was the main figure. He was asked to give a piece of tasty food to one holy man who was starving for a right cause and God was on his side. My ancestor was asked to pick up the tasty food from the king's palace during the early morning and evening and give to this man. God also gave an idea about how to go to the king's

palace and then to return to that holy man .My ancestor knows exactly where to go into the kings palace, then to the kitchen door and God opened a miraculous way for him to get a piece of bread and meat and gave extraordinary strength to hold it and reach to his destination.

Here I would like to mention one more important fact. According to our nature we try to grab any food from man but here my ancestor took the pain to obey God by restricting themselves from the temptation of disobeying the Word of God. As a reward for his labor he was able to drink enough water from the brook from which this holy man drank. Because of the water scarcity my ancestor was about to die, and that time he cried unto God for water and that time God asked Him to do this and he obeyed what God asked him to do and by obeying it he was blessed so much and his name came in your Holy Book and he was able to live for many years.

From my ancestor I heard that when he brought that food to that holy man, he was praying to God with His tears for strength and courage to face the difficulties. That time he went and sat near to that man and kept the food near to him. But this man was praying earnestly and he just called him Kra.....kra.....kra and by hearing his sound that holy man remembered God's promise to him that God will feed him through ravens. He also told me that he was fed by the man of God by the food he brought to him.

Dear friends he played an important role to hail the name of the living and Almighty God in that perverted generation, through hearing and obeying the Word of God. God always calls anyone who is willing, and when they do what God wants them to do, then God is faithful to bless them.

Here I wish to tell you with much love and care, the secret behind a fruitful and successful life from our background; that is to cry before God and obey God in your life and God will not forsake you nor leave you alone. Yes, year after year, day after day, and every morning, His mercy and faithfulness is new, and it will be showered onto those who trust in him.

Dear friends, the condition in which you are now may tempt you to doubt it, but let me remind you that God is in control of the whole universe and you are very precious to Him. He will not take His hands off you, lest you do it and if you are ready to return to Him by trusting in Him or ready to proclaim that..... "I believe you".....you will see Him just beside you to lead you through the darkest valley and also to the still waters by holding your hand.

You are very feeble but He is mighty. He cares for you and He needs you, so that He can do marvelous things through you for others in spite of all your frailty.

I would like to write few lines of one of my favorite songs which I always like to hear, even though I cannot sing nicely and I wish you to believe in it and sing it always in your life.

The stead fast love of the Lord never ceases,

His mercies never come to an end;

They are new every morning; new every morning

Great is thy faithfulness, oh Lord

Great is thy faithfulness,

Dear Friends here I stop,

CROW XI FROM THE GREAT CROW FAMILY

India - Farmers of the Future

Rev. Jim Gardner

The plight of our Indian farmers continues to worsen as many neighboring farmers have witnessed one of the driest years in recorded history. Power outages, coupled with a lack of rain leaves little hope for many as irrigation pumps fail and crops continue to burn up. The drought stricken state of Andhra Pradesh continues to yield little if any hope for the many farm families who are struggling to pay debts accrued due to the recent drought.

There is now a greater growing concern that faces the more distant future of India farmers. The future of India's next generation farmers may now be in peril as many of the now generation of youth are choosing to abandon the age old traditions of farming and seek a more adventurous and glamorous life in the big cities. Youth are being lured away from the farms through enticing and promising television, newspaper and radio advertisements. These advertisements often lend themselves to exaggerating the truth about the numerous opportunities available in the lime light of the cities.

The long droughts coupled with centuries of selective child birth practices is taking its toll on the male children available to farm the land as much of the fertile soil now lays idle due to the shortage of farmers.

There are no big tractors or farming equipment to offset the shortage of farm workers needed to feed one fifth of the world's population that now live in the Nation of India.

"Hope", yes, now there is hope on the horizon for the desperate situation our India farmers are

facing. As hundreds of youth at COTR/CFI (Church on the Rock/Christ for India) are being trained and equipped to better face the perils that lie ahead in the farming communities.



The ministry at COTR/CFI is again leading the "charge of change" in efforts to overshadow the severity of this drought and the reality of future droughts. COTR/CFI has recognized the needs of the community and has prioritized the training and educating of our children on campus as they realize it is essential for the growth of a strong new generation of native Indian farmers. Projects of hope are equipping the farmers of the future in India as the students at Nava Jeevan Public School and the Christian Jr. College on campus are being educated on the latest methods of water conservation, water reclaim/ recycling,



drip irrigation systems in addition to mechanized operating techniques.

Student education starts from the ground up as students and COTR workers teamed up with an Australian team on campus for nearly the entire month of November 2011. An Australian team which dedicated its time and resources in the fabrication and installation of a detailed water purification/ recycling system designed not only to provide much needed water for the campus and farm use, but equally important converting contaminated waste water into a Eco-Friendly agricultural water source.



God continues to pour out his blessings on COTR/CFI as a newly dug well, irrigation piping and three water storage tanks are now in place and operational. They bring forth waters from below to replenish the crops that now are grown on the campus grounds. What was once only a vision of a handful of people who believe and support Gods work here on campus at COTR/CFI is now a reality. A blessing from God as the revolution and



rejuvenation of life now springs from the once barren dry ground as the abundance of water from below is brought to the surface, and now flows onto the fertile soil planted with the first crops of tomato plants.



For thirty years the rich soil on the campus of COTR has produced quality students as servants of the most High God, but was unable to sustain and produce crops. Crops that could help ease the daily feeding cost of the children and workers.



Thanks to our Australian family, there is rejoicing and celebration echoing through the halls here on the campus at COTR/CFI. For the first time in thirty years we have abundance of life giving water flowing from below through an ECO-Friendly newly designed reclaimed recycling water filtration system on campus. These advancements continue to move Gods kingdom forward as relationships with the community are enhanced as students will soon begin educating locals on

the new systems, and the new crops will cut vegetable costs, provide more jobs for local farm workers and help feed the nearly 1500 meals to students and workers here on campus each day.

The working knowledge as students and workers are gaining from the new systems could one day help shape the nation of India into a thriving agricultural giant. There is wind of change blowing in India as God opens more doors for the faithful. The possibilities are endless, if we continue to put our faith in God, and as we place our trust in Him good things will happen in our lives!!!!

There are no words that can express the gratitude and appreciation to our lifelong friends from Australia. They have once again reached out to the



Howard, Don & Bob making a difference

needs of many and sacrificed greatly and contributed so much to the needs of our organization. Words are lacking to express our appreciation and gratitude for another act of kindness and love that they have poured out onto COTR over the years as they have personally witnessed Gods work and blessings through their efforts and commitments. Our thankfulness goes out to Darryl & Rosemary, Howard, Bob and Don for being a big part of our family and lives here on campus at COTR/CFI.

From the Titus family and ALL on campus, we truly want to express OUR thanks to you and send continued blessings to all, giving assurance that

you have always been and will always be in our prayers.

A word from the author: I have never seen a greater cause to invest in as the one I have witnessed at COTR/CFI ministry. Blessings continue to flow as we continue to partner financially and through prayers. Thanks be to God and the Titus family, for your blessings to our family and the Ministry.



Before irrigation system



After completion of irrigation system



Rev. Jim Gardner
“A servant to Jesus Christ
called by God to India”

Woman - Jesus is your Lord

Dr. W.S. Annie

The mid semester outreach program was a wonderful time of ministry; meeting people, ministering to them and learning from them. We as a team met many people, many things were significant. But one incident which touched me and the team was the life of a young widow Sushma 23yrs old with a two month old infant female baby. As the team was staying in a church, this family had asked the team to visit them every day and pray for them. I visited the family along with the team when the team and the family, had got well acquainted.

Sushma's husband a young engineer had died when she was eight months pregnant. The young widow Sushma was a trained teacher with B.A, B.Ed. Sushma's husband died a few months before their first marriage anniversary.

Only the mother of Sushma, Shushma and the little baby were at home. Sushma continued to grieve, but seemed to have come out of the shock, eventually accept her predicament. Sushma started to talk to us. "What will we do"? We have no one to care for us. "Some thing so unfortunate that should happen to no one has happened to us". "What will be the future of Sushma?" "What will be the future of the little baby?" As they were speaking, all these things, we were also able to sense the feeling of shame, guilt, failure, worthlessness, futility of living. Life seems to be worthless, shameful, the existence as a young dependent widow with a fatherless child was meaningless, worthless and burdensome.

They also said that they had stopped attending

the church, because they were not able to face the pastor and the church members. "Pastor and the Church members think that this has happened to us because we did not pray enough". Since the tragedy, for months - they had stopped attending the Church worship. In her epochal 1969 work, "On Death and Dying", Swiss psychiatrist Elizabeth Kubler Ross defined five stages of grieving through which most human beings passed before coming to terms with the possibility of their dying - denial, anger, bargaining, depression and finally, acceptance. She clarified that these were not chronological stages and that people may experience them concurrently or switch between them during the process of grieving. In contemporary psychology, the Kubler Ross model as it has come to be called, is generally extended to include any catastrophic life event that leaves one helpless and forces one to face its emotional consequences.

In Shushma's case there is some thing more entangled with the process of grieving. This was more belittling the women in the family, the men too. The cultural notion of "widowhood as a curse" weighed them down beyond our imagination. Any amount of hope and confidence imparted, failed to work at this moment. In the gravity of the situation, I felt the woman would have committed "sati" if only sati was allowed today or they wished for sati because their existence was a cruse.

Many Christian communities are new believers from some Indian religions, especially, many are

born again from Hinduism. When people embrace Christianity they are expected to leave their old religion: its tenets, teachings, practices, values... and embrace Christianity. But in Indian Churches we have carried on certain crippling teachings and practices of the old religion, into the Christian Churches. "Sati" is one such practice. Though, sati is abolished in practice, the whole ideological apparatus that promoted sati remains and works powerfully - than, ever before. This is found even in the Church. The ideological frame work that promoted sati was the idea, "The husband is the LORD of the wife". A wife has no reason to live other than to serve her Lord - husband. A woman's life had no meaning apart from that of her husband's life. Women, usually live serving their husbands - their Lord. What will a woman do when her husband is gone? Before the time of Missionary William Carey it was sati - women were burnt alive with their husband's corpse. Today sati is prohibited. But widows, their families lead an unworthy, unaccepted existence.

The Christian church has not addressed these issues for many reasons. I would like to point out at least two reasons.

1} Pastors and Bible teachers are mostly "male" who lack sensitivity or empathy to such pertinent cultural - theological issues.

2} Teachings of the role of wives in Christianity and Hinduism seems to be very similar. Christian church teaches, wives to submit to their husbands, to serve their husbands. Husband is the head of the wife, like Christ in the head of the Church (Eph 5: 22-23). This seems to be very closer to the Hindu teaching - "Husband is the Lord of the wife".

Christian Theology informs us some thing different. Below, I would like to point out the status or position of the wife in Christian Biblical theology and draw out its implication for our contemporary Church. As pointed out earlier there is a functional (the way it works) similarity between the Hindu teaching of the role of the wife and Christian teaching of the role of the wife. Every wife has to submit to her husband; but, there is a crucial ontological (theory of being, self) difference.

The Bible says in Gen. 1: 27 that God had created human beings as male and female, in His image. Now, human beings, as male and female are co-creation of God the creator. Both, the male and the female: draw their being, sustenance and subsistence from God - their creator. Male and female are related to each other as co-created by the same creator. Male, female, all the other creatures - plants, animals and so on are accountable to their creator God. All do have their horizontal responsibility to each other, but each one is related to God in a unique way. The vertical union to God is special and unique, both for male and female

Each person has a special vertical relationship to their God which is ultimate and primary. The horizontal relation they have with their co-creatures is secondary. This is a basic Christian theology concerning our relationship with God and others on earth. The first commandment Ex. 20:1, God wants to be the prime person in every one's life. Any thing or any person in the place of God is an idol.

The above discussed Christian theology concerning our relationship with God and others on earth comes into sharp contrast with the non-Christian idea that, "Husband is the Lord of his

wife". Naturally, when their God-Husband was dead, the wife was forced to commit sati to be faithful to him even after death. Widows had no reason to live longer after their husbands were gone.

In the light of the above Biblical teaching each individual as male or female, his or her life is of great importance to God the creator. Each one is accountable to his or her God - the creator in the first place. If so, Sushma and her female daughter are not cursed, worthless, pitiable creatures on earth. They are very special creatures of God, with God's own plan and purpose for their lives. Though the present may look very bleak, due to grieving [which is natural] we should not allow wrong, out dated non-Christian notions to control us and make our God intended existence [one time experience in eternity] burden some. Sound Christian doctrines, teachings should be taught in the church for sound healthy Christian community living and ministry.

We as Christians have carried over these non - Christian teaching into our Churches. But a genuine Christian community really interested in the welfare of all the Christian members in the Church would think differently, would teach the Church correct Biblical doctrines. Our Churches should grow into a matured community. For that we need matured, sound theology. The Church is a New Creation of God. The old has passed away. **THE CHURCH IS THE BRIDE OF CHRIST, WHICH SHOULD LIVE A LIFE PLEASING TO CHRIST AND NOT ANYONE ELSE.**

*Dr. W.S. Annie is on the
faculty of COTRTS.*



The President, The Board of Directors, Faculty and Graduating Class of

CHURCH ON THE ROCK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

**Cordially Invite Parents and Family Members of graduating Students,
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CHRIST'S GENEALOGY - IN & OUT

Mr. D. A. Sunil Kumar

Introduction: The genealogy of Jesus recorded in the 1st five verses of the New Testament, (Matt. 1:1-5) seems to be very vital to understand its message. The Holy Spirit had inspired the author to write a maverick genealogy, which has an innate message.

Some of the names, specially the names of certain women in the genealogy will raise our brows and will make us think. One of the few women mentioned is Rahab. I think that Rahab is the 'odd man out' or what is called, the 'black sheep' in the genealogy list. I say this because, in spite of Ruth being a gentile woman like Rahab, had a Jewish husband, Boaz which we know from the Historical books. Though Rahab eventually married a Jewish man, these books do not mention the name of her husband.

For some interesting reasons, Rahab sneaks her way into the prestigious tribe of Judah and subsequently into the genealogy of Christ. Nevertheless, there are obvious reasons for the same.

The 1st of the Historical books, Joshua has some interesting events spread across a few of its chapters. Gleanings from these events in 1st to 7th chapters reveal some interesting facts. These facts will help us to understand how one sneaked IN to the genealogy because of faith and the other, who had all the credentials to be in the genealogy was OUT because of disobedience. To understand the proceedings better, let us see what both of them

had in common; they both hid something. Their destiny depended on what they hid.

1. Rahab: Who is this Rahab?

A Gentile woman from Jericho. To know more about her, we need to systematically analyze the events just as the historian has done it in the narrative.

Spies sent by Joshua land in Rahab's House:

In Joshua, Ch. 1, we see that God had spoken to Joshua and had promised him divine protection. God encouraged him and told him that He will be with him as He was with Moses. These promises that he heard from God were still very fresh in his mind. Suddenly, in Ch. 2, Joshua had to face a great challenge. He probably took this event as a very prestigious one because, this may be his first and very crucial assignment. He saw before him the walls of Jericho, which are said to be the strongest walls ever built in world's history.

He probably wanted to know more about the unbelievable size of the walls that were before him. He therefore sent two spies to spy out the land and gather for him the actual information that was needed. These spies, as they landed in Jericho straight away entered into an inn which was run by an innkeeper turned prostitute, Rahab.

What did Rahab Hide and Why?

The news that the Israelites have come to spy out the land reached the king of Jericho and he sent soldiers to seize them and kill them. To our

surprise we see that Rahab is hiding them. It may raise many questions as to why she had to hide them when they were strangers to her until then. Nevertheless, Rahab gives them a reason as to why she risked her efforts to hide them.

Ch. 2: 8-14 clearly describes the words of Rahab.

v. 8, I know that the Lord has given this land to you.

v. 9, All in the country are fainthearted and afraid because of you.

v. 10, we've heard how your God has been leading you since you came out of Egypt.

v. 11, For the Lord your God is the God in heaven above and the earth below.

v. 13, When victory is complete, save me and my family as I have saved your lives.

We see here that Rahab is not speaking for herself, but she speaks on behalf of all the people of Jericho. Therefore, everyone in Jericho knew that the God of Israel is a mighty God and Has been doing great wonders since the time of the Exodus.

The most important thing for human salvation is not just knowledge, but knowledge should mature into faith. Today, in our Indian context, many people have the knowledge of Christ, but do not have faith in Him. There are many so called enlightened people who had framed interesting philosophies, had some followers to propagate them and slowly vanished away as time passed. Human salvation is only possible through faith in Christ. Therefore, even though everyone in the city of Jericho had knowledge about God, it was only Rahab who had faith in acknowledging the same and acting according to it. She was the only one in the city that gave the confession of her faith and put it into practice by hiding the

representatives of God. Heb 11:31, clearly says that Rahab was saved only by Faith.

Joshua's Concern and God's Comfort.

The spies return to Joshua from Rahab and give the report of their mission. Joshua who is fully charged with the promise of God in ch. 1, after hearing the report is probably a little concerned. Maybe, he was trying to frame a strategy and think as to what he and his army can do regarding the walls to bring them down.

It happens to each one of us. When we hear or read from the word of God, we feel so refreshed and strong, but when the actual problem is before us, we panic and we start thinking more of the problem and less of the God who can deliver us from the problem.

Right at that time, in 5:14, 15 Joshua had a vision of a man standing in front of him with his sword drawn. Joshua, who was already worried is all the more panicked and asks him if he was for or against them. The reply was that he was neither for nor against, but had come on behalf of the Almighty God. Joshua probably started to feel the comfort, but God intervened to make his comfort complete.

In ch. 6:1-5, God speaks to Joshua and said that He would bring the walls down and that they just needed to walk around the walls for 6 times, once a day for 6 days and on the 7th day they had to walk 7 times, and when the Levites blew their horns, all the people had to shout aloud and the walls would come down. This may not have sounded very plausible, but Joshua had faith and just took this weird strategy very seriously and gave instruction to all the Israelites regarding it.

What a comfort for any commander who sees such huge walls and is hard pressed for strategies to overcome them.

Joshua's Warning: Josh. 6:18-19.

Before the people started to implement the strategy, Joshua gave them a crucial instruction. He said, once the walls come down, everyone can walk straight through, but none of them is allowed to touch the *accursed* things, like Gold, Silver, Brass and Iron. They should be brought into the treasury of the Lord. It sounds difficult though, why God is not allowing anyone to touch the *accursed* things and wants them to be deposited in His treasury. The original language, Hebrew gives an alternate meaning for *accursed*, it can also mean *devoted*. We need to note that in the war against Jericho, none of the Israelites ever took out their swords, spears or any ammunition to bring the walls down. It was God who brought the walls down. Thus the Gold, Silver and the precious things rightfully belonged to God. Therefore, Joshua ordered them not to touch any of them lest they be cursed.

Victory Complete and Rahab Saved, Josh. 6: 20-25:

We see in vv. 20, 21 that the divine strategy was implemented and Jericho defeated. In the midst of the jubilation of victory, Joshua did not forget the part played by Rahab and the faith she expressed, and the covenant made with her. He ordered for her, her family and all her belongings to be brought out of the city before it was burned and gave them a permanent standing among the people of God. We see that she lives among the Israelites even to this day, v. 25.

Therefore it is clear that a woman of such low standings, a Gentile woman, an idol worshipper with no Jewish connections, by the mere confession of faith on the living God was saved. It is not just that her life was preserved, but she and her family had permanent inheritance among the people of God. Not only that, she was also given a permanent place in the prestigious tribe of Judah. Above all, Matthew, the 1st Canonical gospel gives her a respectable position in the genealogy of Christ. Now let us look into the following chapter. God was so strategic in having the historian to write these two chapters one after the other that we today may read it and understand the heart of God.

2. Achan: What did he hide? Joshua 7:1-26

Achan is introduced in Chapter 7:1 as the one who by birth was an Israelite and by birth belonged to the tribe of Judah. He was also the only son for his father Carmi.

We can understand the same in the Indian context much better. 'Only son' means a lot to the family and such a one is pampered a lot. The parents take all possible measures to satisfy him and provide all what he wants. It is because he is the only one who can continue the lineage of his father. Also he is potential enough to either defame or make his family famous. Thus, Achan is born as we say 'with a silver spoon'.

As seen earlier, Joshua had given clear instructions not to touch the *accursed* things. All of Israel was obedient to it but Achan. He hid some of them in his tent resulting in a disastrous defeat for Israel against the indistinct city, Ai. God was so angry with Israel that He who said will be with the Israelites, now said that He will never be

with them, 7:12b. Joshua was unable to bear this. God wanted Joshua to act immediately and annihilate the cause of defeat so that He again may be with Israel.

When Joshua inquired in Israel, Achan, the only son of Carmi was found guilty. It is such an unfortunate event to happen to a man born with such high standings. After he was found guilty and his subsequent confession of the same, the *accursed* things, all the family members of Achan and all his possessions were brought into the valley of Achor. There, they were stoned to death. 7:26 says that the testimony for the same is there even till today in the valley of Achor.

Conclusion:

What a tragedy! This gentleman Achan had all the credentials to be included in the genealogy of Jesus Christ, but was disobedient to God and lost the privilege. On the other hand, a Gentile woman, with a detestable profession and low social standings, by faith was able to establish herself in Israel, in the prestigious tribe of Judah and all the more was included in the genealogy of Christ.

God has inspired the historians in such a way that in Joshua 6, Rahab, a Gentile woman gets the privilege of getting IN to the tribe of Judah and eventually IN to the genealogy of Christ. The very next chapter, i.e., ch.7 tells us how Achan was kept OUT of the tribe of Judah and the person with all the credentials to be IN the genealogy was prevented from being IN the same. Achan lost his privilege and Rahab got it. What a substitution!

Dear readers, I'm sure all of us who are reading this issue are not biological Jews, but God has given us a privilege to be born again into the

blessings and privileges of a Jew. Eph 2:4 describes our past and present. 1 Jn. 3:1 says that God has given us the privilege of being called the sons of God.

Paul speaks of this substitution in Rom. 11:12. It is because the Jews, the rightful heirs of the promise, were disobedient by not having faith in Christ that you and I are IN the body of Christ, worshipping the living God and drawing continuously from His grace. Paul also instructs in Rom. 11 that we should not be puffed up because of this privilege, but rather humble ourselves knowing that it is not because we are worthy of the privileges, but God, in his abounding grace has given us this privilege. Paul also warns that if God was stern enough to cut OUT the Jews, the rightful heirs of the promises, he may also cut us OUT if we demean God's grace.

Dearly beloved, this Christmas, let us examine what we have hidden in our hearts. Rahab had hid the representatives of God in her house, having faith in God and was blessed. Achan hid the things that were not supposed to be hidden and was cursed. David says in Psa. 119:11 that he has hid the Word of God in his heart so that he might not sin. Let us also hide the Word of God in our heart which is a lamp unto our feet and a light to our path. God bless you.

*Mr. D. A. Sunil Kumar is on
the Faculty & Dean of
Students of COTRTS*



FROM THE DESK OF THE REGISTRAR

Mathew Jacob

I take immense pleasure to greet all of you in the precious name of our blessed Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I also would like to wish you all a blessed Christmas and prosperous New Year. May the God of all ages bless you and strengthen you to face everyday with cheer.

We are living in the days of great turmoil and commotions, everywhere people live in fear. As we have once again approached the Christmas season, the message of Christmas always gives us a hope to live without fear and in optimism. That our life moves on with the Immanuel who was born into the world to bring peace and joy, that the world is looking for. Christmas joy is indescribable, the joy that once the angels proclaimed entered into every born again believer. May this Christmas be joyful and the refreshing of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

I, on behalf the COTR College of ministries would like to bring you the updated report of the Seminary. The first semester of this academic (2011-12) year has been successfully completed by God's grace; we could see God's provision and His guidance in all the activities. The Almighty God has been our source of strength, therefore we did not have major problems or difficulties. Students and faculties thoroughly enjoyed being part of the ministry here in this campus.

We are indeed thankful to all of you for your persistent prayers rendered for the ministry's success in the work of the Lord. We could sense the presence of the Almighty God who is the Immanuel and ever present help in keeping us through the entire activities in the different facets of this ministry.

The second semester activities of the seminary began on 26th Oct 2011 with lots of prayer to keep the unity of Spirit. This time our activities had a slight change from the last year's program. Soon after the first semester final examination we had the annual sports and games, and in this activity the entire student body and the faculty members joined, the whole student body divided into four groups and had a real good time of relaxation in being part of sports and games. Just after the sports and games the students were sent into different places of Andhra Pradesh and one team to Karnataka for the practical ministry exposure program, it was a time of taking their classroom learning and putting into practical use. They had a wonderful time of visiting new places and having new experiences. The Evangelism Department of the Seminary took the initiative to arrange and make plans to have this program become a great success.

We are looking forward to having more activities

like the Essay competition, Founders Day program, Christmas and New Year program. As this year is the 30th anniversary of this ministry, we would be having a special thanksgiving program along with the Seminary Graduation and have invited all the Alumni to be a part of this and have a special Alumni Day Meet. We covet your valuable prayers and support for the success of these activities. Please do pray for the NTC Convention and the COTRTS graduation which will be held from February 23-25. We are anticipating Dr. David Shibley and Dr. Gladwyn Turner will be part of this big event. Also

remember the new academic year which will begin by the month of June that the Lord would bring the right students to learn and prepare for the Lord's ministry. Thank you all.

*Rev. Mathew Jacob is
on the faculty &
Registrar of COTRTS.*



Celebrating 30 Years of God's Faithfulness
CHURCH ON THE ROCK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

ALLUMNI INVITATION

Come...Relive your Memories

The COTR family gladly welcomes you, the precious alumni of the Theological Seminary to participate in the 30th Anniversary celebration of COTR College of Ministries on the occasion of the 27th Baccalaureate service to be held on 25th February 2012 in the College campus.

Feb. 22nd Alumni Day Celebrations

Your presence is highly esteemed, so please make it possible to be present at the occasion, be blessed and be a blessing.

- * T.A. will be provided up to Rs. 500/-*
- * Produce Ticket at the time of Registration.*
- * Please acknowledge the intend of attending.*

Inviting you cordially, COTR Family

N.T.C. NEWS FROM THE HARVEST FIELD

The Lord has been faithful to the ministry of New Testament Church of India, and blessed this ministry to be fruitful through out this year. All glory and honor to the living and loving savior who is the head of the church.

CHURCH DEDICATIONS

Hyderabad Area

New Testament Church of India has completed constructing two new church buildings in the vicinity of Hyderabad and were dedicated for God's glory.



On the 2nd of Sept 2011, the first church building was dedicated in Thatipamula village and on 3rd Sept 2011, the second one was dedicated in Mozhangapalli village. Rev. E. M. Abraham, the NTC Area Supervisor for Hyderabad had inaugurated both of the above.

Vizianagaram District

The President of New Testament Church in India, Mrs. Mary Titus had dedicated two new church buildings in Ramabhadrapuram area in Vizianagaram district. The church constructed in Pedavutagadda, Papayyavalasa village was prayerfully opened by Mrs. Mary Titus on 26th October 2011. It was a time of joy to the

congregation and also to the villagers because this is the only church building in that village. More than two hundred people were present to witness and glorify God at the opening ceremony.



Pastor Elisha Rao, the Area Supervisor of NTC ministries in Ramabhadrapuram area led the worship service. Rev. Mathew Jacob, the Vice President of NTC and Mrs. Mary Titus shared from God's Word. They encouraged the believers to be strong witnesses for God so that people from the surrounding villages will hear the Good News of Jesus Christ through this church.

East Godavari District

Rev. Johnson P. Titus, the President of COTR College of Ministries dedicated a church building



for God's glory in Madhyakompalu village in East Godavari district on 19th December 2011.

CHURCH RENOVATION

The NTC Church building in Dathi village of Vizianagaram district was renovated and was



rededicated on 6th December 2011. This church was originally built with tiled roof supported by wooden beams. God has enabled the church members to replace the roof with concrete. Mrs. Mary Titus prayfully opened the building for the glory of God. Rev. Johnson P. Titus shared the Word of God.

Please remember NTC ministries in your prayers. NTC is thankful to every individual who financially supported the completion of these church buildings. God Bless you all.

NTC Pastor's Conference

This year the Pastor's conference was held from the 1st to 3rd of December. Mrs. Mary Titus the president of New Testament Church of India inaugurated the conference and encouraged the Pastors to be faithful in the service of the Lord. She said, the Lord who started this ministry, has provided everything so far and He will continue to do the same in the future. These three days of fellowship was an enriching experience for the Pastors and the people who attended this conference. 'Unity of the Spirit' was the theme of this meeting. Preachers from Viskhapatnam,

faculty members and the senior Pastors of NTC shared God's Word and encouraged all the Pastors who attended.

Rev. Mathew Jacob, the Vice President of NTC had led the first session and welcomed all the Pastors for a wonderful time of refreshing in the Spirit of the Lord, beside the other sessions there was a special prayer session, which was a real time of breakthrough. Dr. K.R. Singh, Dr. Dasan Jayaraj, Dr. Sam K. Mathews, Rev. Johnson P. Titus, Rev. Finuel Pani, Rev. Mathew Jacob, Rev. D. A Sunil Kumar, Rev. Vijayakumar, Mrs. Helen Johnson, Rev. P. N Yesupadam and Pastor V. Joshua brought the Word of God to the Pastors. All the messages were very encouraging for the Pastors for their future ministry.



On the 2nd of December, NTC had the general body meeting in which the various aspects of the ministry and future plans were discussed, also certain corrections were made for the growth and smooth functioning of the ministry. Pastors from states other than Andhra Pradesh also shared their ministry progress. Altogether, the Pastors conference was a blessing. We do humbly request your continuous prayers and support for this ministry.

NAVA JEEVAN SCHOOL & JR. COLLEGE REPORT

Victor Joseph

The Nava Jeevan family is profoundly grateful to God for his great enabling in our lives thus far. On 15th August 2011 Nava Jeevan Christian Junior College and Nava Jeevan Public School jointly celebrated the 65th Independence Day of our Nation. Mrs. Mangalam Jeyakumar, wife of Dr. Arthur Jeyakumar unfurled the Tricolor, followed by National Anthem and a spectacular March past. Mrs. Helen Johnson, Secretary of C.O.T.R College of Ministries, took the Salute. The staff from COTRTS, NJCJC, NJPS and students of these institutions along with a number of parents were present. There was a colorful cultural display and the program ended on a sweet note by the distribution of sweets.

On 5th September, 2011 students from the school and junior college together arranged the Teacher's Day. The teaching and the non teaching staff of both the institutions were honored on this occasion. A love feast was given by the management for all the staff of the campus. During the last week of July 2011, the senior students of NJCJC conducted a freshers' gathering for the juniors. A number of cultural programs were also held.

From 8th to 12th September 2011, a Zonal level sports meet of Visakhapatnam district was held at Madhurawada in which about sixty schools participated. It is a matter of pride and great appreciation that Nava Jeevan Public School won the Trophy for over all Championship. Mr. Satish, a Class IX student of our school was declared as the overall Champion of the Tournament.

On 14th November 2011 'Children's Day' celebration was held at the school auditorium. Cultural programs, essay writing, drawing, speech and essay competitions were held. The debate program was more amusing and it proved to be meaningful and productive. The school correspondent, Mrs. Mary Titus, the President of COTR, Rev. Johnson P. Titus and Secretary, Mrs. Helen Johnson were present on the occasion. The children were blessed, encouraged and were filled with confidence by their presence.

The annual sports meet for NJPS and NJCJC were conducted from 24th to 26th November, 2011. On the inaugural day, the Correspondent, Mrs. Mary Titus lit the torch and declared the sports meet open. All the students took part with great enthusiasm. The teams were divided into houses namely Noble, Justice, Peace and Serene.

The department of Evangelism of COTR Theological Seminary had conducted an essay competition for the senior students in the School and Junior College. A number of students showed great enthusiasm and took part in it. The title was 'Corruption free India – Possible or Impossible'. The final results are still being awaited.

On the 10th of December, 2011, a special Christmas program was arranged at the school auditorium. Students from both the institutions participated in it. The school Correspondent, the President and the Secretary of COTR College of Ministries were present on this occasion. A splendid cultural display by students earned a lot of applause.

Half yearly exams, Hope exams and Council and Board exams are at hand. I would appreciate the prayers of all well wishers of the ministry and all God's people for these students and their bright future.

Plato, the great Philosopher said, "The direction in which education starts will determine the future life of a man". Formation of character and moulding the lives of young students for a better future is not an easy task. But the Lord God has commanded us to be patient in facing the challenges, so as to add many milestones to history and an added hope in serving many more in the years to come.

*Mr. Victor Joseph is the
Principal of
Nava Jeevan Public
School & Jr. College*



**30th Anniversary, Graduation & Alumni Meet
from Feb. 22nd to 25th, 2012
Feb 22nd Alumni Day**



COTR THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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C.O.T.R. THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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are open
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The Registrar

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