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GLOBAL MERCY – A FLOATING HOSPITAL TO AFRICA



Mercy Ships, which is a faith-based global organization providing world-class surgical care free of charge to those in need for more than 40 years have announced the construction of the world's largest NGO hospital ship which plans to set sail in late 2021 under the name of "Global Mercy". The 37,000-ton ship with 6 operating rooms is set to sail to Africa where over 16 million people die each year due to lack of surgical and medical care. The 174 meters long ship will also have simulation laboratories that will teach locals on health education. This ship will need 600 volunteers which includes surgeons, teachers, electricians, and cooks. The expected lifespan of the vessel is 50 years, and an estimated 150,000 lives will be changed onboard through surgery alone.

Mercy Ships is a Christian interdenominational missionary organization founded in 1978 by Don and Deyon Stephens. It was originally a part of YWAM (Youth with a Mission) before becoming a separate organization in 2003. The vessels that were in service in the past include MV Anastasis, MV Caribbean Mercy, and MV Island Mercy. Since 2000, MV Africa Mercy is in operation, serving the African continent. The vessels of Mercy Ships have visited nearly 600 ports in 56 developing nations directly benefitting more than 2.8 million people. The services and materials provided by its volunteers is valued at over \$1.7 billion.

Amy Barrett rated 'well qualified' by American Bar Association

USA : Judge Amy Coney Barrett, a judge of the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals based in Chicago was named as President Donald Trump's pick to replace the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg on the U.S. Supreme Court. Barrett is a former Notre Dame law professor.

The American Bar Association (ABA) has rated Barrett as "well qualified", based on her integrity, professional competence, and judicial temperament. The ABA's have been previously called as the "gold standard by which judicial candidates are judges." This rating from a substantial majority of the ABA was disclosed in a letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee. The



rating process began immediately after Barrett was nominated on Sept 26th by President Trump. The many references to Barrett's children during the hearings have pronounced that her prolific motherhood was especially admirable and a sign that she was not shirking her womanly duty while she was unleashing her ambition.

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Donald, Melania Trump and COVID-19



Like death is the great leveler, Covid-19 is also like the great leveler. It comes to anyone unmasked and makes him humble if he is haughty. It does not spare anyone, not even the wealthy, famous, or talented. Needless, even the American President has not been spared. Now the truth is that the U.S. President, as well as his wife, has also

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IS YOUR DESTINY UNDER TRIAL?



IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL



IS PRUNING HURTING YOU?



EDITORIAL

ACCEPTANCE OF PAIN

Trials are not only to aright their tilting spiritual boat, but also an occasion for God to reveal His power and presence like never before.

Clinical studies among college students who underwent focused physical training have shown that acceptance of pain enhances pain endurance and tolerance, and acceptance is more important than attention to pain or its control. Acceptance of pain happens when there is a commitment to the cause, which in turn is birthed out of love – love not only for the cause but also for the Person behind it. Apostle Paul writes, love endures all things. The US NBA basketball season of this year has ended, and the winners took the ring because they endured the pain of this unprecedented season. Love for the game and passion for the ring made the winners endure training by the coach and showdowns in the courts. Without suffering the season for a heavenly reason, there is no ring or a crown!

Pain and suffering are God's time-tested method of drawing attention to Him. Irrespective of religious affiliation, all men cry to their god amidst pain, just as the sailors and Jonah the prophet cried to their gods while facing the tumultuous sea. But for a follower of Jesus Christ, trials are not only to aright their tilting spiritual boat, but also an occasion for God to reveal His power and presence like never before. Paul and Silas were put in prison after being badly beaten by the authorities, only for God to demonstrate His ability that sent an earthquake just to the Philippian jail alone. As the psalmist says, Emmanuel's presence is more felt as we walk through the valleys with looming shadows all around.

Christ reminded His disciples that they need endurance when the world hates them for His name's sake. Just as Jesus, we also need the endurance to bear the cross. Job is mentioned as an example of enduring pain. Hence, we infer that we are not exempt from sufferings. Paul writes to Timothy that there is no reigning with Christ without enduring the suffering. If reigning is perpetual, then suffering is but for a moment, in comparison of duration. Nevertheless, pain in life continues, so that man of God be refined. Apostle John reveals by the Spirit to Laodiceans that the throne to reign with Christ is reserved for those who overcome the complacency brought by riches of this world. Lack of sufficiency is not the only method of refining a follower of Christ has to undergo, but also the abundance of wealth. Amid adversities and abundance, may the Christian realize that dire trials are to bring us to the destiny of His choice!

Continued from Page 01

DONALD, MELANIA TRUMP AND COVID-19

been tested positive. His diagnosis serves as a cruel reminder of the pervasive spread of the coronavirus. Moreover, some of his top advisers and allies alike have tested positive recently. The grim fact is that no one is entirely out of the virus' reach, and even those, who supposedly believe, are inside a protective bubble.

It is reported that Trump's health is getting better day by day though coronavirus affected him badly and let all us pray together for his and the first lady's complete recovery. However, at this juncture, it may be good to recall Mr. Trump's controversial stand vis-à-vis the coronavirus pandemic. He was rather a cynic than a sympathizer towards the pandemic-fearing people, especially in taking preventive measures like wearing masks. Some time ago, Mr. Trump mocked his opponent, Mr. Biden, for wearing a mask saying, "I don't wear masks like him. Every time you see him, he's got a mask." Mr. Trump even questioned the effectiveness of people wearing masks to ward off the pandemic. Now with the Coronavirus attack on Trump, it must have dawned on him how important it is for everyone to wear a mask in public to insulate oneself from being infected with the coronavirus. Furthermore, the grim reality is that vaccine has not been found yet for the Covid-19 pandemic, and efforts are on to find it by the end of this year. So, at present, the mask is the vaccine, and everyone needs it against being infected with it.

Mr. Trump, who has spent much of the year downplaying the threat of a virus that has killed more than 205,000 Americans, said he and Mrs. Trump were quarantining. Though stricken with the virus, Mr. Trump was hopeful and said, "We will get through this together." Yes, a very encouraging message brimming with hope comes to all who are down with the Covid-19 pandemic or fearful of the pandemic. He and Mrs. Trump are hopefully and cheerfully fighting the Covid-19 pandemic without an element of despair or concern. Hope alone is the driving force in everyone's life, as is evident from the U.S. President and the first lady.

TK Nandan, a freelance writer, is presently employed with an Indian Government Organization. While studying for MA (English), he took up the job of a copywriter. Thereafter, he got an appointment as sub-editor in one of the leading publishing companies in India. Married to Jayasree, who is a nurse by profession, he lives in Kochi. Athulya Grace and Sam Thejus are their children. He is a regular contributor of articles to several English dailies in India.



TK NANDANAN
Freelance writer

Theme for November : Stand firm in faith (1 Cori 16:13)

Our Advisors



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Chief Editor
Goodnews
Weekly



T. M. MATHEW
Publisher
Goodnews
Weekly

The Vision : To illuminate God's Holy Word through Spirit-filled insightful pen.

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AMY BARRETT RATED 'WELL QUALIFIED' BY ABA

Her father, Mike Coney, was an attorney for Shell oil, and later became an ordained deacon at the St. Catherine of Siena Parish Church in Barrett's hometown of Metairie, Louisiana. Barrett is a mother of seven, with two children adopted from Haiti, and one with Down syndrome. She is involved with a Christian group called People of Praise.

Christian faith has been a constant and central part of Barrett's life. She is a deeply religious woman with her roots in charismatic conservative Catholicism. Barrett told the Notre Dame alumni last year that she decided to become a lawyer since it will allow her to be involved in real world things, in real world policy and shaping society. She clerked for

Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, who died in 2016. Her students from Notre Dame states that she is approachable and is also willing to offer spiritual mentoring in a one-on-one setting.



IS YOUR DESTINY UNDER TRIAL?

**OUR CHRISTIAN JOURNEY
REFLECTS THE MESSAGE
OF THE GOSPEL, AND THAT
IS NOT VOID OF TRIALS**

predetermined course of events is that we were created in Christ Jesus for good works to glorify God. And it is the irresistible power through Christ that is holding us and leading us (*"in Him, all things hold together"* - Colossians 1:17).

Now Paul reminds in 1 Thessalonians 3:3, that in our faith journey to produce good works, we are "destined for trials." It is imperative that our eternal destiny that is created in Christ Jesus for good works is destined for trials. So, when we get unsettled, disturbed, or waver amid trials, we are essentially putting our destiny in jeopardy. Our destiny flows out of a relationship with God. We will never discover our destiny without embracing a revelation of Christ and what He has done for us. The various gifts, passions, skills, talents, and much more that guide us in walking out our calling or destiny are only effective and eternally worthwhile when rooted in Christ and driven by the Holy Spirit's leading.

The devil will do its best to derail us from our God-given destiny through trials and obstacles. But the truth is that these hurdles are part of our destiny. As Paul again says, *"We are hard-pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed but not in despair; persecuted but not abandoned; struck down but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body."* (2 Cor 4:8-10).

Our Christian journey reflects the message of the Gospel, and that is not void of trials. The very death of Jesus was the only path to our redemptive journey for good works. His trial produced life in us. Hence, the trials in the pursuit of our God-given destiny shape us more to be like what God has created us to be. Shake off from what you think is a hurdle, and look at it as a God-given moment to display the grace, love, hope, and peace of Christ that is in you. Let not your destiny be under trial, but let your trial propel you to your destiny!

Sam Varughese is an ordained minister and currently serves as the Associate Pastor at IPC Hebron Houston. He holds his M.Div degree from Criswell College in Dallas, TX and has served in various pastoral and ministerial positions. He has also served as a Clinical Chaplain at Baylor Scott & White Health, and at Children's Health in Dallas, TX. Along with his wife, Christina, they are blessed with three princesses.



PR. SAM VARUGHESE
Houston, USA



We are all created with a God-given purpose and destiny. Paul says, *"We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them"* (Eph 2:10). Yet many believers go through life without a clear sense of what they are destined to do. Trials and obstacles seem to derail us from our destiny.

The problem in understating destiny from a biblical perspective is that we define destiny by the dreams, goals, and aspirations that we attain in our futile life on earth. If life were just about living it out on earth, then that would be sufficient of a definition. Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines 'Destiny' as "a predetermined course of events often held to be an irresistible power or agency." Our eternal

IPC Hebron - Houston Looking for Associate Pastor

Overview:

The Indian Pentecostal Church of God in Houston, TX is seeking a passionate and experienced leader to fill the role of full-time Associate Pastor to lead a large Youth and English speaking congregation. The Associate Pastor should be able to preach and teach relevantly to a generationally diverse crowd comprised of English and Malayalam speaking individuals primarily of South Indian descent (i.e. Kerala, India). We are seeking someone who is familiar with both North American and Indian culture and has interest/experience ministering to this group of believers.

General Job Description:

The Associate Pastor must provide spiritual and pastoral leadership to the whole spectrum of the church congregation which includes the children, youth, young adults, and adults. However, there will be a greater focus on the youth, young adults, and English speaking members. The Associate Pastor must be able to lead worship services

to inspire, and encourage the congregation to help them lead a more abundant and fruitful Christian life with culturally relevant and applicable teaching.

In addition to his responsibilities with Sunday ministry events, the role will be active throughout the week. The Associate Pastor must be able to lead and participate in various church meetings and events, counseling, and other pastoral duties.

The Associate Pastor will be required to work with the Senior Pastor, Youth Pastor and church leadership on programs, events, and initiatives which will encourage and lead the congregation to greater spiritual growth.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Ordained by a Pentecostal organization
- At least 30 years of age and married
- Bachelor's degree in Theology or other biblical studies earned through an on-campus program from an internationally accredited theological institution.

Master's degree in a theological discipline preferred

- Saved, baptized, and filled with the Holy Spirit
- Living a life pleasing to the Lord
- 4 years of ministerial experience
- Preferably someone who is familiar with the South Indian (Keralite) culture and has genuine interest/experience ministering to this group of believers
- Citizen or permanent resident of the United States

We offer a competitive salary with benefits. All submissions will be confidential.

To apply please email resume along with two professional references to IPCH. AssociatePastorSearch@gmail.com

For further inquiries or general questions please contact **Sr. Pastor Sabu Varghese (C: 215-939-7512)** **Secretary Thompson Varghese (C: 832-725-7642)** or **Saju John (C: 347-245-0489)**



OUR FAITH IN CHRIST SHOULD BE UNWAVERING

ONLY THOSE WHO HAVE TRUST IN THE LORD WILL
OVERCOME DIFFICULTIES AND STAND UPRIGHT IN LIFE.

When a believer is in trouble, it is an opportunity for him to learn and comply with the decree of the Lord. A righteous man is not for this world but counted for heaven. He will never complain of anything wrong in life, but he will enjoy the time when he is in trouble. Indeed, he will know that the time of affliction is the best period to learn His teachings. It is also a preparation time. Psalms 119:71 says, *“It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn Your decrees.”*

It is a common belief that troubles come from Satan, but nothing comes to a righteous man’s life without the knowledge of God, and so, whatever happens in life, it is as per God’s plan. We are made for heaven and not destined to remain underneath the earth so that these trials would unsettle no one. For you know quite well that we are destined for them (1 Thess. 3:3). Whatever types of affliction are in our life; we have to remain dedicated and look forward earnestly to getting the reward in heaven (Hebrews 10:23).

Dr. Binu Daniel is a management consultant, teacher, author, and educationist. He has penned many books, and has worked as an editor in academic publications. He was the chief editor of the Golden Jubilee publications of Christ Ambassadors of AG in Kerala. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala; and qualified JRF-UGC in India. He has written numerous articles in well-established English dailies on Economics and Management issues. He lives in Germany with his wife Reena and two daughters, Sharon and Naomi.



DR. BINU DANIEL
Dusseldorf, Germany



None one wishes to be in a state of being afflicted, and if one is stricken with affliction, he may tend to think why this happened to me. As a matter of fact, everyone born into this world has an inherently sinful nature due to the sin committed by Adam and Eve. As sin crept into human life, the entire humanity got separated from God. This separation from God put the man in untold troubles and miseries. Psalm 51:5 says, *“Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.”* However, with faith in God, one can cleanse his inherent sinful nature. A verse from the book of Job vouches for this truth: *“As sparks inevitably fly upward from a fire, people will face problems and troubles in their life.”* (Job 5:7).

It is only through a born-again life one can derive spiritual strength and power to conquer the sinful nature and overcome troubles and tribulations in life. In reality, problems in life push people down and make them enslaved. But only those who have trust in the Lord will overcome difficulties and stand upright in life. As long as we remain in our worldly life, we will stay afflicted, and these elements of sinful nature will be eliminated only when we reach heaven and spend time with our redeemer and Savior.



PERSEVERE WHEN UNDER TRIAL

WHEN YOU ACCEPT THAT THE TRIALS ARE GOD-SANCTIONED
BECAUSE HE HAS A PURPOSE FOR YOU,
YOU LEARN TO PERSEVERE



Binny Zachariah Mathew is a finance professional in the Logistics industry. He lives in Singapore with his wife and 2 children. Binny was born and raised in UAE as a Pentecostal Pastor's son at Sharjah Pentecostal Assembly. He is serving God at Ebenezer Malayalam Fellowship church, Singapore.



BINNY ZACHARIAH
Singapore



or many Christians (even some new converts) believe that once I have accepted Jesus as my Savior, my life will be smooth from then on with no burdens, and we are cruising in His protection with no worries or care. We love the verse in Ps 91:10-11 “No evil shall befall you nor shall any plague come near your dwelling. For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways”. But soon, the adversities of life start, and we are to face the storms of life, be it health issues, relationship issues, financial issues, and myriad other problems start propping up, threatening our faith in Christ. Sometimes these situations seem so overwhelming and test us sore. Each of these trials is unique to us. In some of these times, we even question our faith. Is this suffering the Will of God? Will God allow this to happen to me? Times like this, it's relatively easy to sink into despair and

disappointment. But as Believers, we need to realize we cannot escape trials. The Bible assures us of trials.

The more we read in the Bible, we notice many powerful characters in the Bible have been through some tremendous tribulations in their lives. For example, Joseph, Moses, Job, David, Daniel, Paul, etc. have been through some severe trials in their lives. We probably won't be in awe of them, if not the hardships they went through. Peter says not to be surprised with fiery trials when testing you (1 Peter 4:12-13). Can we tell our trials have been 'fiery' trials as that of our Christian forefathers? Peter goes on to say rejoice that you are sharing Christ's suffering. So, what should we do when we go through suffering? Should I be despondent and withdraw from the world? On the contrary, Rom 8:28 says, “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” Believe that God has a plan for you, and He is working on you for your good. In Romans 5:3-4, Apostle Paul writes, “Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.” When you accept that the trials are God-sanctioned because He has a purpose for you, you learn to persevere, which builds your character and thus your hope.

Sometimes we trust in the blessings God has given us and gone astray, which is why He disciplines us just like our human fathers do as we read in Hebrews 12:7-11. Don't you feel proud that your Heavenly Father loves you enough to discipline you? Let me remind you that when you are going through your challenges today -- “being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus” (Philippians 1:6). Our Lord is coming soon. Let us remain faithful in our trials as James says in his epistle, so that after enduring we will receive the crown of life promised by God to those who love Him (James 1:12).



MIDNIGHT MELODY!

A CHRISTIAN PILGRIM'S MIDNIGHT MELODY BECOMES A SWEET AND POWERFUL GOD'S SONG WHEN IT IS SUNG IN THE NIGHT

“At night His song is with me” (Psalms 42:8)



Elizabeth Mathew is a born-again, Spirit-filled Christian. As a former Vice Principal, she had a close association with educators, parents, and children. She enjoys the nature and personality of kids and the attributes they carry. Her passion is to spiritually nurture the Body of Christ through her articles and poetry. She has been involved in Sunday School ministry and in leading secular schools in UAE for over two decades. Elizabeth currently resides in Muscat, Oman, with her husband, Mr. Abraham Mathew, and two children, Abel and Lovina.



ELIZABETH MATHEW
Muscat, Oman

When the life's midday sun suddenly gets quenched in the midnight gloom, God's consolations begin to bloom and rings a melody deep down in the heart of His own. They are so divine, varied, and rich that it keeps them going till morning.

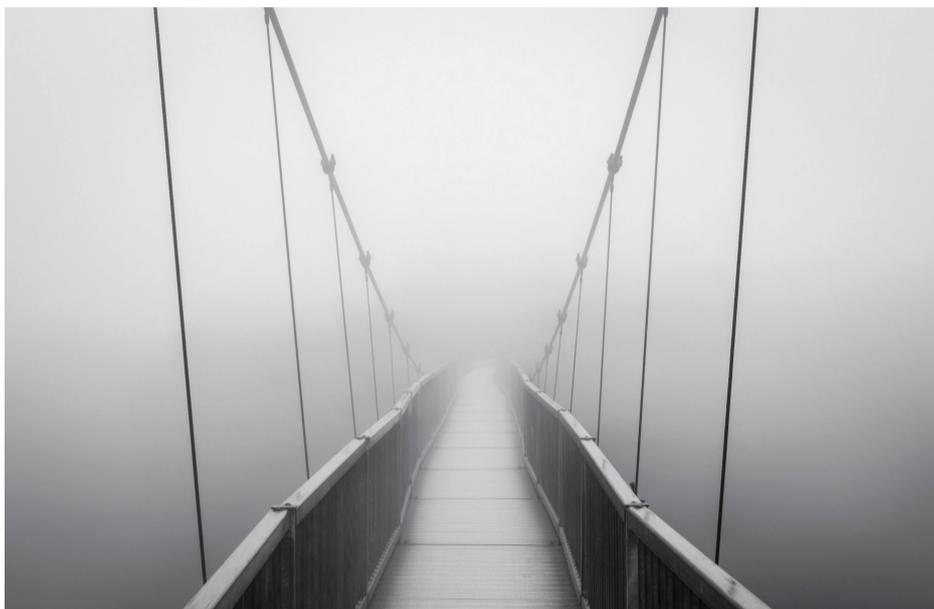
The golden Hymn- 'It is well with my Soul' was written after traumatic events and tragic circumstances in Horatio Spafford's life. He lost his son, and his business interests were severely hit by the 1873 Chicago fire's economic downturn, and he planned to travel to Europe with his family on the ship. In a late change of plan, he sent the family ahead while he was delayed on the business. While crossing the Atlantic Ocean, the ship sank rapidly after a collision with a sea vessel, and all four of Spafford's daughters died. His wife Anna survived and sent him the now famous telegram, "Saved alone". Shortly afterward, as Spafford traveled to meet his grieving wife, he was inspired to write the above-cited words as his ship passed near, where his daughters had died.

It is challenging to sing in the night season of the soul. But place your broken heart in God's hands; He will mend and retune it to sing beautiful melodies once again. "... God my maker, who gives songs in the night" (Job 35:10). When others gaze at you with pity in your sufferings, God will marvel at them by giving you the sweetest song in your darkest night. Jesus, our perfect example, led His disciples in a piece in His most desperate hour [Mathew 26:30], when tears or silence would have been much more appropriate from a human perspective.

O pilgrim, raise your song for He calls you to bear witness at midnight! When the folks around you see the difference that Jesus makes in the worst moments of life, they will want what you have. When Paul and Silas lay in prison, beaten, bloodied, and chained, their fellow prisoners heard them singing, and the jailer was led to Christ (Acts 16:25-29). And of course, when the mantle of night weighed heavily on David and other psalmists, they sent songs into the darkness.

We may be passing through many a night—nights of sorrow, of persecution, of sickness, of humiliation, of anxiety, —nights of all kinds. The narrow path that leads to Almighty is only through the prickles of the road of suffering and endurance. Yet God will give all His blood-bought ones the ability to sing in the night. His grace helps them to choose joy and trust God. It was a divine melody which Habakkuk sang when in the night of adversity, he said— "*Though the fig tree does not bud...yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will be joyful in God my Savior*" (Habakkuk 3:17-18).

The nightingale sings most sweetly in the stillness of the night. And likewise, a Christian pilgrim's Midnight melody becomes a sweet and powerful God's song when it is sung in the night. Sorrowful pilgrim, quit murmuring, charging God with harshness and stigmatizing His dealings as unkind. Rather rejoice at the occurrence of afflictions and keep singing the midnight melody that will propel you to a life filled with the power of God Himself.



SECURITY BEYOND THE GRAVE PART I

Dr. George Samuel is the Author of the Bestseller 'Courage in Time of Discouragement'. A scientist specializing in the application of radioisotopes in medicine, Dr. George Samuel is currently Director of Value Education Centre and President of Navajeevodayam Bible College, Tiruvalla. He has had many stressful experiences, especially while caring for his two sons suffering from the threatening Cystic Fibrosis. He firmly believes that despite the problems at home, God is in control!



DR. GEORGE SAMUEL
Navajeevodayam Bible College
Tiruvalla, India



When we are at the grave-side, especially when our dear ones are buried, we feel much emotionally. I remember my wife's funeral service held 21 years ago, and a month later of my mother, then after two months, my father, again after three months, my younger son, and after a year, the funeral of my older son. Those times were sorrowful days for me; however, each funeral was for me a time for the "celebration of the certainty of my hope in Jesus and the security beyond the grave."

How reasonable is belief in life after death?

Compared to other creatures, man is a creature whose powers, capabilities, and desires stretch far beyond the terrestrial scene. Look at the ideas that man's mind is capable of containing. Man's mind can take in the thought of God, eternity, and infinity. These endowments are not destined only for his limited existence on earth.

God's dealings with us are to purify and develop character. The perfecting of nature through sharp trial and discipline is not to end

THE HOPE OF LIFE BEYOND ONLY GROWS MORE EVIDENT AS THE HISTORY OF HUMANITY ADVANCES

up in nothing. Our sense of justice also forces us to visualize something in the future to compensate for today's unfairness and related problems. The sense of accountability that we all carry with us anticipates a day of reckoning. We can put rational meaning into the experiences of life in the context of the life to come.

Belief in life after death is a source of personal security, optimism, and spiritual betterment. It gives courage and hope when we think of a better life for those who use the present to prepare for eternity. Belief in the unlimited opportunities of eternity has enabled many to make the ultimate sacrifice of their own life on behalf of others. The present life with all inequities and imperfections is not God's last word to us. The hope of life beyond only grows more evident as the history of humanity advances. Indeed, there must be another chapter to our existence than that which closes on earth.

How is heaven going to be like?

We cannot compare heaven with anything on the earth. There are beautiful pictures and figures of speech in the book of Revelation. This book is filled with imagery and is not always a literal description of things. There is no reason to question the existence of literal heaven.

Heaven is the place where we will live forever with all the saved people who once lived on this earth. It is also a place where we will live with God. The people who live there will never die again. Jesus promised that we could live with Him in heaven (John 14:1-5). It will be wonderful when we are in the presence of God to enjoy His love and goodness every moment of eternity. God's close presence brings a special joy and peace. The people there and how we live will be much different from our life here on earth.

The Bible does not tell us everything about heaven. We cannot understand it even if it did, because heaven is so much different from what we see on earth. The Bible tells us a little bit about some of the blessings when we get there (Matt.13: 44-46; 1 Pet.1:2-9). Everything that happens in heaven will make us happy and joyful. The main thing is that we shall serve God and find the tasks for our hands and minds. Once we get to heaven, we would never want to return to this earth.



Christianity and Immunity to trials

A CHRISTIAN IS NOT EXEMPTED FROM TRIALS; NONETHELESS, THEY ARE PROVIDED WITH THE POWER TO OVERCOME IT

Annet is a Software professional currently working with IBM. She holds a Masters in Human Resource Management and Bachelors in Public Administration, Politics, and History. She lives with her parents Pastor Sam K. K, Biji Sam, and Abey, her brother in Hyderabad. She often contributes her writings for ICPF Hyderabad and a page "Philo Mente" on Instagram.



ANNET SAM
Hyderabad, India



With the onset of the Corona pandemic - one of the buzz words has been immunity. People are searching for the Immuno-Boosters and medications that could safeguard and strengthen them. In our spiritual journey, we are at war. We are often fighting against demonic infections which can affect our relationship with God.

Weak Spiritual immunity during the trials and temptations can pollute our spiritual health. Paul was deeply burdened for the believers in Thessalonica, worried that they would shatter under their situations. To the point that he feared they might forsake their faith in Christ. (1 Thess 3:3,5). He exhorted them that Christianity is a divine calling to suffer for Christ. A destiny often paved with persecutions. However grim-some this sounds, he was instilling in them the hope of God not to be dismayed over the toils of this world. By referring to the words of Christ (John 16:33), whom himself suffered much to redeem the humanity, Paul says to the Church of Corinth that even the "thorn in the flesh" allowed him to sustain in the Grace of God and therefore, he took "pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for the sake of Christ's sake" (2 Cor 12:10)

In today's world, false teachings are on the rise - hyper grace, prosperity & blessings are all that we hear! Let us turn our ears to Jesus. A Christian is not exempted from trials; nonetheless, they are provided with the power to overcome it through the Word and guidance of the Holy Spirit. As David testifies, God is a shield around him (Psalm 3:3), and Paul is experiencing the divine strength to do all things, even in weakness

(Phil.4:12). Let us receive our power and strength from God and overcome our light and momentary trials. (2 Cor. 4:17). In such turmoil, let us keep our soul in good health and let us not forget.

"The destined end of Man Is not happiness nor health but holiness" - Oswald Chambers.



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IS PRUNING HURTING YOU?

WHENEVER A GODLY MAN RELIES ON GOD THROUGH HIS TRIALS, GOD GETS ALL THE GLORY



It takes my mind back to childhood memories; when I've always wondered why people used to cut parts of the plants they want to grow to make it look lost entirely. Little did I realize, after a few days, the plants grow more beautifully than before. This selective removal method of certain parts of the plant, such as branches, buds, or roots, is pruning, which enables a healthy growth of the plant.

A gardener foresees a healthy plant while pruning. Apostle John says in John 15: 2, "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit." Who likes to be trimmed and pruned? Yeah, it sounds painful, but the process that seems unbearable to us at the beginning, God expects us to bear more pleasant and qualitative fruits at the end.

Pruning eliminates dead parts, prevents growth in the wrong direction, and nutrients do not go to the parts that the gardener does not want to grow, thereby ensuring a good yield. Often some difficult challenges or trials comes

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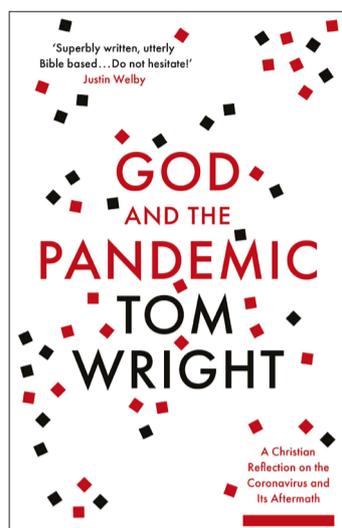


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our way to reveal our weaknesses to sanctify ourselves, not to lean on the things of this world, and God doesn't want our vitality to be used in a field that inhibits our spiritual life, preparing us for a better individual that God wants us to be.

An eagle pushes the little one out of the nest, and it falls, indeed, to be destroyed. Not so, however! The eagle comes down in a flash, catches the little one on her back, and flies up, and does it again and again before the eaglet learns to fly. God does not leave you in the middle of paths, in the same way, He makes you more robust in the process. As the gardener gets the credibility of a healthy plant, and as the mother eagle gets the credibility of a flying eaglet, whenever a godly man relies on God through his trials, God gets all the glory.



GOD AND THE PANDEMIC

GOD GROANS WITH US IN OUR SUFFERING, EXEMPLIFIED THROUGH JESUS, WHO WEPT AT LAZARUS' TOMB



Tom Wright's recent volume came out of the press as the first contribution to Christian literature on the pandemic. Wright critiques the current Christian response of blame game, shaped by luxury and comfort, disconnected from the early Christian practice of service and sacrifice. He asserts that Christians today have opted for modern equivalents of Greek philosophy in understanding the pandemic. They have also failed to grasp the fundamental Biblical concepts such as power, sovereignty, and sacrifice to demonstrate God's reign over the world.

He draws two strands of thoughts from the Old Testament: God's punishment of Israel's sinfulness through exiles and the suffering of the righteous (Psalms 44, 73; especially the Book of Job). He asserts how lament becomes a significant response amidst such injustice during the righteous' suffering. The section on the Gospels portrays Jesus himself as the sign of God's sovereignty over the world, which bespeaks not only through the miracles he performed but through his death and resurrection. He further proposes

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PR. THOMAS SAMUEL
Word of Hope Christian Fellowship
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the early Christians' response to the famine as a model for the present crisis, where Christians become the sign themselves, rather than seeking after signs in the pretext of Christ's advent. Reflecting on Romans chapter 8, he indicates how God groans with us in our suffering, exemplified through Jesus, who wept at Lazarus' Tomb.

Finally, he flags up the increasing irrelevance of the Christian witness in society due to "the escapist evangelism and spirituality." The present Church, divorced from its long tradition of serving the poor and needy - that used to be more than what the government and others did - is now relegated to society's fringes. Christian leaders failed to rise above their secular counterparts for radical action, while they often claim that "Jesus was radical". He rightly points out that Jesus is not in the locked churches, rather out there suffering along with those who suffer, bringing hope and life. While the early Christians laid down their lives practicing radical hospitality, Christians today cloistered themselves to their homes, participating in webinars and "cyber churches" amidst the crisis. He concludes with a warning that other forces (Mamon) will take control unless we act now. This short book is an easy read that helps us think biblically, theologically, and pastorally—a good resource for personal reflection and church study groups.

FROM HISTORY

From a sermon reader to the father of a nation

What can a man do with 78 years of his lifetime? Well, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi would reply, "Freedom to my people." During the first 45 years of his lifetime, he experienced the brutal realities of slavery in his own country and South Africa. During these times, he confronted the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus mentions, "...ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also" (Mathew 6:39, KJV). It influenced the father of

the nation to develop the strategy of nonviolent resistance or Ahimsa that, in turn, resulted in the freedom of India. Since his saga started on October 2nd, 1869, India pays tribute to him by commemorating his contributions to the nation on this day as Gandhi Jayanti. The United Nations recognizes this day as the International Day of Non-Violence. He destined himself to trials for the freedom of his people. That's why the nation calls him as Mahatma!

Charley Joseph is a pastor and a social service worker. He holds degrees from the Senate of Serampore College, India (M.Th. and B.D.), and Seneca, Canada (SSW-IR). He is influencing the world around him through teaching, writing, translating, and social services.



PR. THOMAS SAMUEL
Pastor and Social Worker, Canada

CHRISTIANS AS GOOD SAMARITANS IN MENTAL HEALTH CRISES PART II

SEEKING MEDICAL HELP IS NOT DENYING GOD'S POWER, WHETHER IT IS OUR PHYSICAL OR MENTAL HEALTH.

MENTAL ILLNESSES AND CHURCHES

The hard truth is that the mental health crisis and suicide epidemic are highly prevalent in Christian churches. Many, even within our church walls, are overwhelmed, emotionally hurting, and seeking answers. Mental illnesses don't discriminate; having faith in Jesus doesn't always make you immune to mental illnesses just like it doesn't make you immune to a sore throat, a fever, or hypertension. Remember, we all live in a fallen world, in a fallen body which can get sick. Mental illnesses may come to the godliest and most talented of God's ministers in the churches also. Surprisingly, in our neighborhoods, they are everywhere in our own offices, even in our own homes or churches. Yes, Christians, too, can suffer from mental illnesses. The fellow believer who sits and worships next to us in our pews may be struggling with a mental illness we don't know of!

We cannot assume that those we love and look up to are not fighting the darkness. Maybe they are too

Preethy T Thomas is a dual certified APRN (Family Nurse Practitioner and Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner) currently employed in Oklahoma, as a PMHNP providing psychiatric treatment and medication management for children and adults. She obtained her BSN from CMC, Vellore; MSN in Family Nurse Practitioner from Georgetown University, D.C, and Post Masters in Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner from Stony Brook University, New York. Her favorite part of working in Psychiatry is 'being able to help those who can't help themselves'.



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ashamed, guilty, or embarrassed to talk about their struggles or be worried about the exclusion, discrimination, or the abandonment because mental illness is still highly stigmatized in our church communities. Haven't we read incidents where individuals with high spiritual backgrounds and religious leadership committing suicides due to their mental illnesses? We need to realize that even spiritual leaders, pastors, evangelists, worship leaders, and the faithful churchgoers can struggle with mental illness in complete secret isolation. Surprisingly, mental illnesses are very often misinterpreted as 'spiritual warfare' alone. They are viewed as 'tests from God' or 'caused by demons or evil spirits' or 'punishment for our sins' or 'lack of faith, trust or commitment to God' and get labeled as 'spiritually weak or fallen souls.' Even if we come across someone with mental illnesses, we often rush to conclusions and tell them to "just trust God more or pray more, and it would all somehow go away."

When it comes to mental illnesses, we think prayer and fasting alone can always conquer serious psychiatric diseases. We encourage and urge individuals with diabetes, cancer, or other physical illnesses to seek expert help from the medical professionals and continue the follow-up checkups as directed. We often ignore or neglect mental illnesses because of our misperceptions about them. Seeking medical help is not denying God's power, whether it is our physical or mental health. We don't realize that mental health is as important as physical health and that mental illnesses are also medical conditions that are treatable with appropriate care. The roots and causes of mental illness can be varied and diverse, and that they probably had tried everything they knew, including 'praying more and trusting more' before they approached us!

What should churches do? (will be continued in Part 3)

PASTOR NEEDED

QUALIFICATIONS FOR CANDIDATES

- Ordained minister of Sharon Fellowship church or similar Pentecostal Churches.
- Minimum Bachelor's degree in Theology
- At least 35 years of age & married
- At least five years of Pastoral experience
- Fluent in English & Malayalam (for preaching)
- Must be a legal US Resident

SHARON FELLOWSHIP CHURCH OF DALLAS, TEXAS IS SEEKING A FULLTIME PASTOR TO BEGIN MINISTERING IN JUNE OF 2021.

Contact Information

Interested candidates may apply with their resume and other references to the following address or email before November 31st.

Sharon Fellowship Church of Dallas
940 Barnes Bridge Road
Mesquite, TX 75150.

Email: sharondallas97@gmail.com
Roy Abraham (Secretary)
Abey John (Treasurer)

: 214-738-3976
: 972-904 -5029



FACTS ABOUT BREAST CANCER

- In 2020, an estimated 276,480 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed in women in the U.S.
- 64% of breast cancer cases are diagnosed at a localized stage for which the 5-year survival rate is 99%.
- This year, an estimated 42,170 women will die from breast cancer in the U.S.
- Although rare, men get breast cancer too. In 2020, an estimated 2,620 men will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year in the U.S. and approximately 520 will die.
- 1 in 8 women in the United States will be diagnosed with breast cancer in her lifetime
- Breast cancer is the most common cancer in American women, except for skin cancers.
- There are over 3.5 million breast cancer survivors in the United States.
- On average, every 2 minutes a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer in the United States.

(National Breast Cancer Foundation, Inc., 2020)

HOW TO REDUCE THE BREAST CANCER RISK?

- Keep a healthy weight.
- Exercise regularly.
- Don't drink alcohol, or limit alcoholic drinks.
- If you are on hormone replacement therapy external icon or oral contraceptives external icon (birth control pills), ask your doctor about the risks and find out if it is right for you.
- Breastfeed your children, if possible.
- If you have a family history of breast cancer or inherited changes in your BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes, talk to your doctor about other ways to lower your risk (CDC,2020)

BREAST CANCER SCREENING TESTS

- Mammogram
- Breast Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)
- Clinical Breast Exam
- Breast Self-Exam (CDC,2020)

GUIDELINES FOR THE EARLY DETECTION OF BREAST CANCER

- Women ages 40 to 44 should have the choice to start annual breast cancer screening with mammograms (x-rays of the breast) if they wish to do so.
- Women age 45 to 54 should get mammograms every year.
- Women 55 and older should switch to mammograms every 2 years, or can continue yearly screening.
- Screening should continue as long as a woman is in good health and is expected to live 10 more years or longer. (American Cancer Society, 2020)

Priya Mathew is a Family Nurse Practitioner (MS from UT, Tyler) and working in the Department of Endocrinology at a US Government Hospital in Dallas. She also completed a 2nd Masters (Nursing Education, University of Phoenix) and did her BSc from India (Nursing, CMC Ludhiana). She has served as Editor-in-charge of Monthly Publications and the Chief Editor of the Biennial Souvenir of IANANT (Indian American Nurses Association of North Texas). She also has written Malayalam Christian devotional songs. She is married to Wesley Mathew and resides in Dallas with their two children.



PRIYA MATHEW
Family Nurse, Dallas, USA

IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL

Accept that we have been destined for this when **we are in the midst of a trial.**

Every year high school seniors worldwide take part in what is known as ‘Senior Superlatives.’ From ‘most likely to be a doctor’ to ‘most likely to be an actor,’ from ‘most likely to be a social media star’ to ‘most likely to succeed,’ these superlatives run the gamut of everything you can think of. They all fall under one overarching theme, though – ‘being destined for greatness.’ What is not there in this rather long list of superlatives is ‘Most Destined for Trials.’ The word ‘destined’ itself implies something great. However, in 1 Thessalonians 3:3, the word is used rather jarringly. Apostle Paul reminds us that we should not be unsettled by trials because we are “destined” for them.

The truth is that no one wants to be destined for trials - big or small because we know that trials bring with it - disappointment, anger, and frustration. It forces us to experience an assault on our very being. Not a single person could blame us for feeling unsettled in the face of trial. For who among us would willingly say, “Lord, here I am ready to face whatever trial you send my way”? Yet the Bible is full of characters who, through their actions and willingness to place their trust in God, did just that.

Take Daniel, for example. He could have saved himself a terrifying experience in the lion’s den if he had just followed King Nebuchadnezzar’s decree and stopped praying for 30 days. Then there’s Joseph, whose first exposure to facing trials comes from within his own family, and David, who becomes Saul’s target at a very young age and remains so for several years. And perhaps one of the greatest examples of all - Job, whose problems begin after God presents him to Satan as a paragon of virtue.

Despite their trials and tribulations, Daniel, Joseph, David, and Job have this inherent belief that their God has not forsaken them. They recognize that these unsettling trials are meant to serve a greater purpose, and it humbles them when they realize that anointing does not preclude them from adversity. Instead, even in their darkest moments, they accept that these trials are meant to serve a multifold purpose:

1. To prepare them for their future role.
2. To help them understand that a life of servitude requires that you be battle-tested.
3. To instill in them core values and refine their character.
4. To bring them to their knees so that they turn to God in good times and bad.
5. To put them front and center stage to witness God’s magnificence.

Ultimately, the trials that these men face teach us a far more powerful lesson. That *“those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.”* (Romans 8:30 NIV). Let us, too, then accept that we have been destined for this when we are in the midst of a trial. That God, in His infinite wisdom, has a master plan that he will unveil in due time. He is not punishing us, but rather training us to wholeheartedly believe and say, “It is well with my soul.”

Divine Leonardo is an educator with the New York City Department of Education. She holds a B.A. in Communicative English, a B.A. in English, an M.S. Ed. in Adolescent Education/English and an M.S. Ed. in Educational Leadership.



DIVINE LEONARDO
Educator, New York, USA



NEW TECHNOLOGY FOR OFFICE COMMUNICATION



The “new market” is familiar with mixed reality tools such as Zoom, Teams, and Slack which enable virtual meetings from any location. With the onset of the COVID pandemic, there have been a merging of the real and virtual worlds to bring a new environment. It is reported that for the foreseeable future, 42% of full-time employees will be working from home. Many companies are trying to reduce their real-world office footprints by a third. Hence, new applications are redefining the future of work and study. There is an increase in demand for virtual focus

groups powered by artificial intelligence which will enable companies to perform market research and hear more voices; the anonymity of the online platform enabling even those who would not typically speak up in person to voice their opinion.

Companies are also adopting mixed reality environments for project needs. Collaboration tools such as online sticky

notes, shared digital whiteboards, live co-editing wikis, etc. which allows virtual brainstorming and fast to market of new concepts. With the tools at disposal, more ideas are being shared and reviewed than if a live facilitator with a whiteboard could have achieved. These benefits will drive the next wave of mixed reality work to be sustainably productive.

NBA finals with lowest ratings

NBA Finals got over with ratings falling to historical lows. The Finals had 48% less viewers than last year. The Game 6 of Lakers-Heat Finals was the lowest rated and least watched Finals-clincher with 4.2

average rating and 8.29 million viewers on ABC. Media Research are of the notion that the decline in viewers had to do with timing of the Finals which happened in October this year instead of June; NBA having to compete with other major sports for viewers; and due to 2020 Presidential election. The Los

Angeles Lakers beat Miami Heat 4-2 in the 6th game of 7 game series. The Lakers now have 17 championship titles, thereby tying with Boston Celtics for the most in NBA league history. LeBron James collected his 4th championship ring.

Biggest World War Two bomb in Poland explodes

The biggest World War II bomb ever to be found in Poland exploded under water. The Tallboy bomb used by Britain’s Royal Air Force had 2,400 kg of explosive. The explosion took place as the navy divers tried to defuse it. This bomb is said to be dropped by the RAF in 1945 during an attack on the German cruiser Lutzow. No injuries or infrastructure damages are reported.

Apple unveils 5G Phones

Apple unveiled iPhone 12 and 12 Pro which are using the latest A14 Bionic chip and can be used over 5G network. They come with enhanced camera capabilities. The starting prices range from \$699 for the iPhone 12 Mini to \$1099 for the iPhone 12 Max. The new phones support the updated MagSafe charger which can be used to charge the phones. The greatest improvement



with 5G is the faster download speeds which can be anywhere between 10 and 100 times faster than 4G speeds. The phones switches seamlessly between 4G and 5G, there by conserving battery power. Apple also unveiled a new \$99 HomePod Mini smart speaker. Preorders for the iPhone 12 and 12 Pro phones begins Friday and the others will be available a few weeks later. According to market analysts, Apple is expected to ship 50 million 5G iPhones this year.

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