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CHINA FACING MAJOR FOOD CRISIS

China accounts for 22% of the world population but only 7% of the global arable land. Progressive urbanization and rapid industrialization since 1949 led to the loss of one-fifth of the arable land. Recently, the infestation of African swine flu killed 40% of China's pig population, and the fall armyworm and locusts devoured millions of acres of crops including corn, rice, sorghum, etc. in a short span of time. Also, the recent flooding by the Yangtze River affected 13 million acres of cropland with an estimated \$21 billion in damages. These problems brought a historic rise of food prices in China.

The ruling Communist Party have initiated the "clean plate" campaign in order to curb wastage of food and to livestream extreme eaters. In mid-August, Xinhua published President Xi Jinping urging citizens to stop wasting food. The government have issued warning of

punishment for those who do not follow the set guidelines, and penalize any behavior of food-wasting. This prompted food associations' encouraging restaurants to sell less food to customer. According to independent studies, Chinese consumers wasted 18 million tons of food each year since 2013 which is enough to feed over 30 million people per annum.

These incidents have led China to increase its import of meat and grain in significant measures. The imports of animals and vegetables and its products have increased fivefold in the first half of 2020 when compared with the same period in 2019; which translates into an increase of nearly \$20 billion in expenses so far in 2020. This increased demand for food may help U.S. farmers who hope to get an additional \$12.5 billion in agricultural purchases from Beijing this year.



An election the world is watching



The Presidential election in the United States of America hots up and draws up to its date on November 03 with the two the parties, Republican and Democratic fighting tooth and nail to grab power to lead this mighty nation ahead. Presumably, the election is all the more important considering the crucial developments that are going to happen in the world especially in the decade between 2020 and 2030. The biggest issue that is going to be so crucial and deciding factor could be the construction of the Jerusalem Temple by Israel, which will be thwarted by the Arab countries under the leadership of Iran. Apart from this world issue, what interests India most in the Presidential election is that Democratic Presidential nominee Joe Biden made a maiden public appearance with his running mate Kamala Harris when the election campaign started. The fact that Mr. Biden, a 77-year old white man naming 55-year-old Kamala as his vice-presidential running mate made history by selecting the first Black woman to compete on a major party's presidential ticket. Taking the center stage of American politics for the first time after becoming the presumptive vice-presidential nominee of the Democratic Party, Kamala Harris said she is always proud of her

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LIFE
AFTER DEATH



PREPARING TODAY'S CHILDREN FOR TOMORROW'S CHALLENGES



What if the good Samaritan travels through the same road again?



EDITORIAL

Are you a neighbor?

In the sermon on the mount, Jesus instructed His disciples to do good to those who hate them. The Father gives rain to the just and the unjust; hence Jesus asked the disciples to follow suit by displaying love in action to become perfect as their Father in heaven. Perfection involves doing good, notwithstanding our religious allegiances, organizational affiliations, and personal preferences. It even transcends friendships, relatives, and relations, which was demonstrated by Jesus dying for us even when we were enemies of God. As someone said, recompensing evil for good is Satanic; repaying good for good is Human, but returning good for evil is Divine. God chose us to be His sons through Christ Jesus, even when we were sinners and estranged from Him. His selection is with a purpose, which includes becoming like Him in doing good to all men, especially to those of the same house of faith.

A neighbor provides not only moral but also material support to those in need. Words carry weight only when buttressed with commensurate deeds. Professing the goodness of a good God does not make one perfect, but doing good even to the haters and enemies will. The biggest malady faced by

Professing the goodness of a good God does not make one perfect, but doing good even to the haters and enemies will.

the church is institutionalization, which has made shepherds become brick makers as the children of Israel in Egypt ended up by the cunningness of Pharaoh. In place of caring for the sick and needy sheep, the focus shifted to constructing storage cities for strangers' use. Time and effort to be used for keeping and rearing sheep got wasted in making buildings that were never used by Israelites. Satan still tries to alter our attention from the eternal to the temporal, resulting in we forsaking perfection of doing good to those in need.

A neighbor brings encouragement when life hits dire straits. Apostle Paul encouraged his fellow prisoners, Roman soldiers, and the ship's crew, though they set sail against his advice, resulting in disaster and loss of craft itself. The tongue of the learned disciple will use it to speak timely words that are like apples of gold in settings of silver. Let us be a good Samaritan – a good neighbor in word and deed to those within our churches and those who know not Jesus Christ.

Theme for October - Destined for trials (1 Thes 3:3)

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GoodNews
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AN ELECTION THE WORLD IS WATCHING

deceased mother, Shyamala Gopalan, who was born in erstwhile Madras, India and settled in the U.S. later.

U.S. President Donald Trump seeking re-election for the second consecutive time is still a sure bet. He has established himself as the best suited man to the presidency again for the second term at this present era. Incredibly, the whole of Americans stood behind Donald Trump when he declared Jerusalem as Israel's capital, a landmark decision that sent shockwaves through the Arab community. This declaration has historical as well as far-reaching consequences. American President's support to Israel has always attracted a lion's share of the traditional votes in favor of Trump. Above all, the things which are going to happen in the immediate future need certain personalities like Trump in the hot seat of America and time will choose him again for the Presidency. Let us wait and watch the political drama being enacted in the land of America for changing the destiny of this world.



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.



LIFESTREAM CHURCH, USA LOOKING FOR A PASTOR

Lifestream Church in Franklin, TN, USA is seeking for a passionate, committed and vibrant personality with good English-speaking skills to be their Pastor.

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Franklin is 20 min away from Nashville, the capitol city of Tennessee, Popularly known as Music City. Nashville currently holds 11th place on the ranking of the nation's 53 metro areas with populations of 1 million or more. Franklin and its surrounding cities are heavily populated with Indian (7,000+families) presenting a great opportunity for evangelistic work. Use any of the following means to get more information about the church and its culture.

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What if the good Samaritan travels through the same road again?

What would be the response of Good Samaritan if he happens to travel the same route again and encounters another person who is caught and injured by the robbers? Ponder, he is a regular traveler of this route and recurrently seeing the miserable fate of people who are attacked and left unattended on the roadside, what will he do? Or what should he do? There could be three possible answers.

1. SOCIAL SERVICE

The first response could be—repeat the good work. He is determined to use his resources gratuitously and serve as long as there are injustice and brutality. He does not bother why bad things happen. He is ready to pour oil and wine as many as times he sees the misfortune of people. Expecting the same course of action, he will probably carry an extra amount of wine and oil for the injured and keep more money for the innkeeper.

2. SOCIAL APATHY

Another response in such situations could be—just ignore and walk away. Callousness is a natural trait of people who continually witness suffering, injustice, and exploitation. Good works become meaningless to them as they do not bring lasting results. The world then remains to be a place where evils prevail and good Samaritans retreat.

3. SOCIAL ACTION

The most radical response in such situations can be to fight against the prevailing system, the root cause of the evil. Pouring wine and oil denotes social service, whereas fighting against the evil order represents social action. Social



service alone cannot bring holistic and drastic changes in society.

However, for social action, there are certain prerequisites. First, a thorough social analysis is necessary.

Pouring wine for a random person who is left injured on the roadside may only need sympathy. On the other hand, fighting against an evil system calls for extensive observation and preparation. Second, social action happens only through social unity. While bandaging an injured can be carried out by a single person, eradication of social evil is a united effort. Third, social action requires exceptional commitment. Good Samaritans can carry out social service, pausing their journey for a

short while. They can hand over the victim to the innkeeper and move away. But social action needs a lifetime commitment. One who aims for a total defeat of a corrupt system needs to be single-minded. Fourth, social action necessitates courage and endurance. As long as the good Samaritan serves wine and oil, he is not perceived as a foe to the evil system. But the moment he prepares for social action, he becomes a threat to the existing vicious order. There, not any random traveler, but he becomes the target of the robbers.

As a result, anybody who is desirous for a

ANYBODY WHO IS DESIROUS FOR A REVOLUTIONARY CHANGE IN THE SOCIETY SHOULD BE WILLING TO BEAR THE CONSEQUENCES

revolutionary change in the society should be willing to bear the consequences, even death.

Over the centuries, the church has undoubtedly played a vital role in social service, but how much in social action? Is it not necessary while the church eagerly awaits the fullness of God's Kingdom?



Rev. Jackson Kurian is an ordained Pastor and Bible Teacher. He also serves as the Mission Director at Fellowship Ashram Church of India. He holds B.Th (FBC, India), M.Th (Laidlaw College, New Zealand), and M.A in Sociology (Karnataka University, India). He lives in Auckland, New Zealand with his wife Reny and two children, and teaches at Ebenezer Pentecostal church.



"On the parable of the Good Samaritan: "I imagine that the first question the priest and Levite asked was: 'If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?' But by the very nature of his concern, the good Samaritan reversed the question: 'If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?'"

Martin Luther King Jr.



Good Samaritan: Relation or Religion?

A spirituality that costs us nothing is not genuine spirituality.

When the priority is misplaced, spirituality becomes fruitless. Good Samaritan story (Luke 10:25-37) teaches that Christian spirituality is primarily a relational religion. This article is an attempt to retell, reflect, and respond to this essential truth.

RETELL

The parable of the Good Samaritan by Jesus was an answer to two related questions by a religious lawyer. Jesus made him give a Scripturally sound answer to the first question, what he should do to inherit eternal life. In accordance with his answer, Jesus instructed the lawyer to live out a two-dimensional love relationship, loving God, and loving others. Since he wanted Jesus to approve his self-justified nature, the lawyer asked who his neighbor was.

REFLECT

Jesus wanted to teach the significance of a multi-dimensional love relationship on our way to eternity. Being created in the image of God, human beings are relational beings, and so we have the capacity of a two-dimensional (God-ward and human-ward) love relationship. We are expected to give the utmost care to keep this relationship. We can be religious but still have an inhuman attitude and practices. With the inclusion of two pious religious leaders (priest and Levite) in the parable, Jesus wanted to say that no true religion is possible without relationship. Human beings are primarily relational beings, and so the relation is core to religion. There is no meaningful religion without relationality.

As true spirituality is relational, it is costly. While it cost nothing to the priest

and Levite, it cost much to the Good Samaritan in terms of time, health, and money. A spirituality that costs us nothing is not genuine spirituality. The essence of love is not gaining but giving. As our God is a personal God, His love for the world and His relational essence cost Him to die on the cross.

RESPOND

Today Christians seem to be focusing on religion than relation. A cursory look into the history of our churches will reveal the crucial truth that the root cause of most church conflicts is centered on relationships, not religion. A crisis like the current pandemic gives us ample opportunity to reinforce the priority of relationship over religion.



Dr. Wessly Lukose (Ph.D., University of Birmingham, UK), is the Senior Pastor of Transformation Church, Birmingham as well as Life Abundant Pentecostal Church, Leicester, U.K. He is also a Faculty Member of Birmingham Christian College (Newman University, Birmingham, UK) as well as Filadelfia Bible College, Udaipur, Rajasthan.



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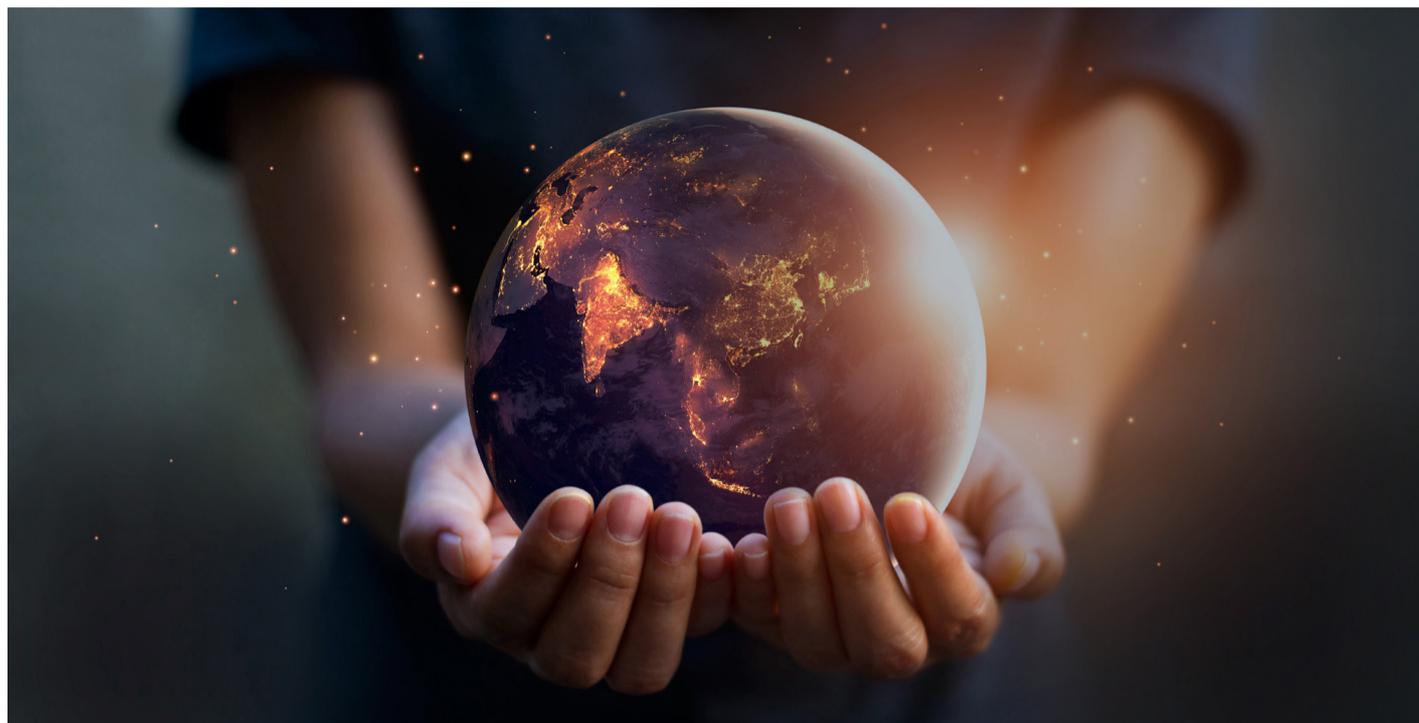
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**A GOOD SAMARITAN IS
NOT SIMPLY ONE WHOSE
HEART IS TOUCHED IN AN
IMMEDIATE ACT OF CARE
AND CHARITY,
BUT ONE WHO
PROVIDES A
SYSTEM OF
SUSTAINED
CARE.**

JAMES A. FORBES





THE WORLD NEEDS YOUR HAND

Does living your life for others create a sense of meaning you are seeking in your lives? You might have heard of the photographer Kevin Carter, who won the Pulitzer Prize for 'Feature Photography' in 1994 for his famous photograph, "The vulture and the little girl", published in the month of March 1993 in The New York Times. Carter, in this photograph, pictured a feeble famine-stricken toddler who had collapsed on the way to a feeding center with a vulture staring at the toddler nearby. He had been advised by the people not to touch them because of some disease, so he tried to scare the creature away and watched as the toddler crept with her forehead leaned down. He ended his life four months after receiving the prize as he was let down by contemplating the day he was helpless towards the child.

There's another viral photograph of a child service worker, Anja Ringgren Loven, in which she was seen rescuing an abandoned, starving child wandering alone on the streets for eight months. One year later, she shared the picture of the same boy transformed completely.

These photographs brought success to both Carter and Loven but with a difference, the former being appreciated for clicking the picture showing the struggle of the starving child, which made his credibility a lot of harm, and the latter for showing generosity towards the starving child.

John Piper quoted, "People don't enjoy salt. They enjoy what is salted. We are the salt of the earth. We do not exist for ourselves". Philippians 2: 3,4 says, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests, but each of you to the interests of the others". The Samaritan in the Gospel of Luke chapter 10 teaches us that the purpose of our life as Christians lies in how we serve others, which mold us into the blueprint that God has for us in our lives. Let the world watch our good works and be drawn to our Heavenly Father.

Let the world watch our good works and be drawn to our Heavenly Father.



Grace Kathettu is an Assistant Professor of Agricultural Entomology at Apollo Institute of Agriculture Technology and Research in Hyderabad, India. She holds degree from Annamalai University (BSc., Agriculture) and Pondicherry University (MSc., Agricultural Entomology). She is the daughter of Pastor K.V George (ministering in IPC Kumbanad Centre) and the Late Mary George; and sister of Gifty George.

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“GO AND DO LIKEWISE” TO GET ETERNAL LIFE!

They claim that they love God, but they do not consider it as their duty to help others.

The enmity among people of today is not new; it existed, and still, it exists in the world since time immemorial. The hostility between the Jews and the Samaritans was prominent at the time when Jesus had His public ministry. The Jews considered Samaritans as half-gentiles, outcasts, and second-rate people as per the Jewish law because they indulged in racial intermarriage with foreign settlers.

Most of the Jews would never travel through Samaria at that time. Instead, they went by a longer route to avoid Samaria and always avoided any contact with Samaritans. It was no surprise that Jesus, along with his disciples, went through Samaria to reach Jerusalem. It was a challenge to the then-existing law and practice in the land of Israel as most people declined to enter Samaria. The well-known conversation between Jesus and the unnamed Samaritan woman was heart touching and memorable.

En route to Jerusalem, Jesus met a Samaritan woman at Jacobs' well who came there to collect water under the scorching sun at noon. She chose this time to collect water as she wanted to hide from the public, for she believed she led a sinful life. But Jesus foreknew it and His visit at this time to the well also predestined to meet this woman to offer her eternal life and forgive her sins. God knew that the Samaritan woman needed enlightenment and forgiveness in life, as God had a plan on her to save many other Samaritans from their perishing lives. Repentance is the last resort of a man to get

God's forgiveness. No hypocrites can repent, and hence their supplications would never be answered. The Samaritan woman found the real water for life-eternal life, and she explained the incident to many in the town. Our Lord Jesus acted here as a good Samaritan to rescue the Samaritan woman from her sorrows and troubles to give her a meaningful life in the world and a life after death.

In another context, Jesus told the story of the good Samaritan after he had been asked by a Jewish man: "What must I do to receive eternal life?" 'Good



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.

Samaritan' refers to a person who helps others in the act of kindness. A Jew was attacked and robbed and left him to his fate in the wilderness by his muggers. Later, a priest and a Levite passed by him, but they decided to walk away. For the priests and Levites, memorizing and fulfilling the ten commandments and attending to the temple duties are their priorities. They claim that

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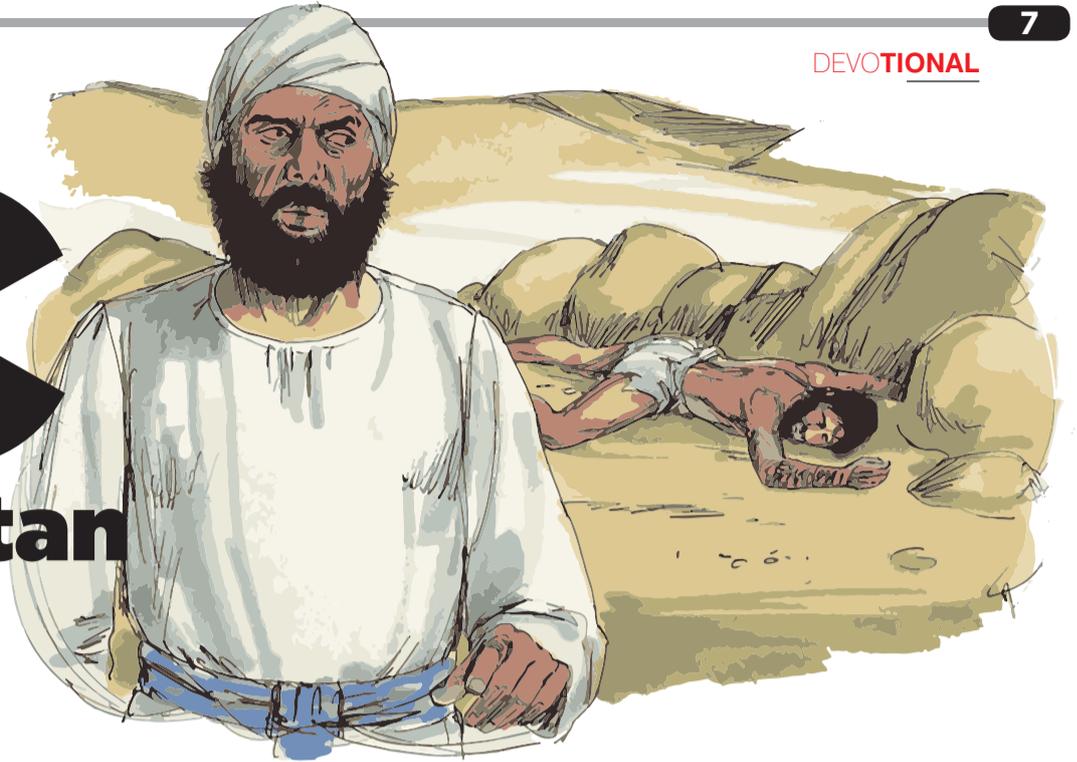
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abc of a Good Samaritan

Be a neighbor to the Least, Lost,
and Last.



We all know the story of a Good Samaritan found in Luke 10. Through the parable, Jesus teaches us the importance and virtue of helping others. We all learn and share this story with a wide audience, and it proved to be impactful for the people around the globe. Here, I would like to point out a few traits of a Good Samaritan, which will transform us to be a better version of ourselves.

1. A Friend in Need is a Neighbor Indeed: This parable is an answer to the question, "Who is my neighbor?" Through this parable, Jesus clears that - rather than inquire about 'Who is our neighbor?', be a neighbor to the Least, Lost and Last. In Luke 4:16-20, Jesus states his mission statement. Being the followers of Christ, it's our obligation to carry forward that mission in the 21st Century.

2. Be the Doers of the Word: Prior to the Samaritan, a Priest and a Levite crossed the same way and witnessed the half-dead man; but offered no help. They depict the group of people who know the scripture very well but never bring that into the practical dimension. This point is further explained



Rev. Aby Kurian is working in North India as a Pastor of Assemblies of God. He did his Bachelors in Divinity (BD) from Kerala and served as an Associate Pastor at Centenary Assembly of God Church (Uttar Pradesh) and a Bible Teacher. Currently, he is pursuing his M.Th. in New Testament from Kerala. He is also serving as a member of Assemblies of God of North India Media Department (Agni TV).

in James 1. The current generation is in desperate need of people who would project the Love of God through their lives.

3. Choose to be the 'Good' one: Good Samaritan is an oxymoron as per the Jewish standards. A Samaritan can never be a 'Good one' because of the shortcomings. But Jesus broke every existing social understanding and depicted them as 'Good ones.' Similarly, we humans can never be holy because of the shortcomings. But Jesus offers us the 'Good way' to be blessed and holy through his Grace (Eph 1:3). Our choices of the way will define our lives.

POEM

The Good Samaritan



A man was robbed and left to die by his assailants,
He laid there, ignored by some who saw but simply passed by,
Then a Samaritan with a good and compassionate heart,
Tenderly bound up his wounds with healing oil and wine,
And thoughtfully took him to the inn on his beast.

If I should meet someone in my hard and fast life,
Totally alienated, discouraged and deeply wounded;
Would I hastily respond to care him as my own?
- with a kindly deed and word that will ease his pain?
Or would I choose to pass him by and turn the other way?
How would I act, what would I do, if this occurs today?

If I should hear of some great need in a land unfamiliar,
With different race, religion, culture, color or creed,
Would I humanely step over the ancient bloodline of separation?
-and get involved in their lives and love them as my neighbors?
Or would I refrain myself to get out of my comfort zone?
How would I act, what would I do, if this call comes to me today?

O God, I want a compassionate heart ignited by your love,
In a time when many are wearied and need help to survive,
Let me be like a little mirror reflecting love from above,
Willing to show mercy, no matter the risk or reward,
To save lives with compassion like the Good Samaritan!

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 as well as 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.



LIFE AFTER DEATH

True immortality is through the redemption, which embraces the resurrection of the body.

Belief in life beyond the grave is common in all cultures. Such a belief rooted in man's mind may be one of the causes for seeking his Creator.

1. What happens to a person when he dies?

Different worldviews give different explanations. Science tells us that the human body is composed of many elements. These same elements are found everywhere on the earth around us. The matter was created by God. The man was created by mixing dust with breath – body, and spirit (Gen.2:7). Death is the separation of soul/spirit from the body. The body decays and returns to dust. We read in Ecclesiastes 12:7, “Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was; and the spirit shall return to God who gave it.”

2. What does science say about “life” that keeps the body alive?

Science recognizes the vitality or ‘energy of life’ that animates every one of the cells in the body. This energy of life is dependent on certain continual processes of waste and repair. When these processes stop completely, there is death. Death of the body then means cessation of the life process of waste and repair. But science does not tell us whether the energy of life is a ‘being’ that continues to have independent existence after death. After life is completely gone, the man is unable to get it back. Science does not say anything about life after death. When we cannot get the answer concerning this from science, we need to look at the Bible for an answer.

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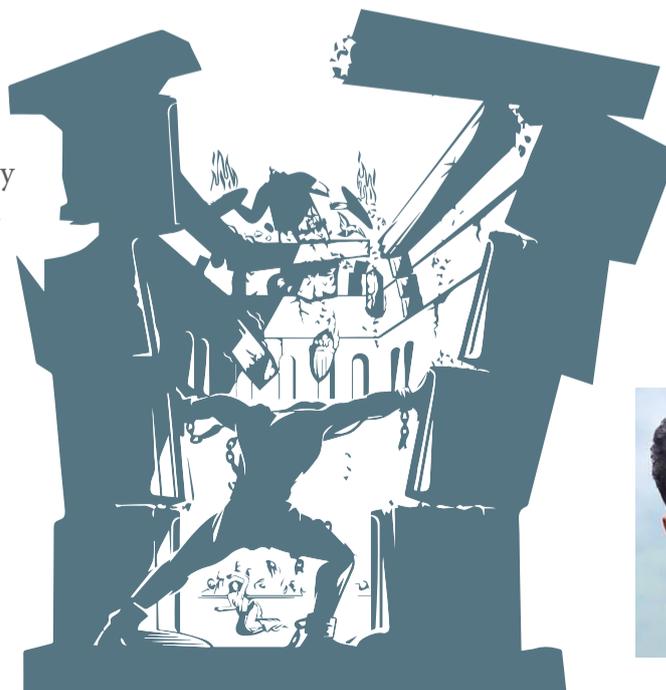


Dr. George Samuel is the Author of the Bestseller ‘Courage in Time of Discouragement’. A scientist who specialized in the application of radioisotopes in medicine, Dr. George Samuel is currently Director of Value Education Centre and President of Navajeevodayam Bible College, Tiruvalla. He has had many 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!

The power of Samson

Samson is one of the most powerful characters in the Bible who was used by God. He was physically so strong, and he was incomparable in terms of his physical attributes. Some verses that speak of his ability are - “Tore the lion apart” (Judges 14:6); “Struck down thirty of the men, stripped them.” (Judges 14:19); “Caught three hundred foxes and tied them.” (Judges 15:4); “He attacked them viciously and slaughtered many.” (Judges 15:8); “Struck down 1000 men (Judges 15:15); “He pushed with all his might, down came temple.” (Judges 16:30)

All these words depict his bodily might. But what is most important and significant is that throughout all his endeavors, the Spirit of the Lord strengthened and empowered him since he being a Nazirite—consecrated or dedicated to God from his mother's



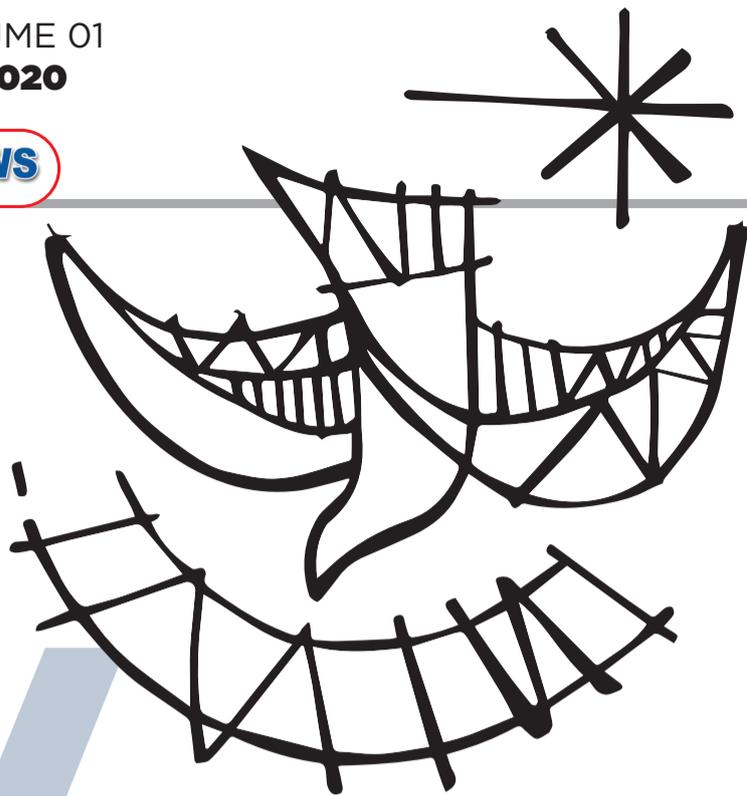
We should always be very conscious about the power of Spirit which is granted to us.

womb, to guide and deliver Israelites from the hands of Philistines. God used Samson and his deeds displayed what God's power could accomplish. But incidentally, this immense power started to wane slowly. He went down to Gaza and spent a night with a prostitute, then thereafter falling in love with Delilah. Samson's divergences endangered him. He became low spirited

Continue on Page 10



Moses Mathew is a Commerce graduate from University of Kerala and was working at Allianz Cornhill. He is a people person and always seeking to learn new things.



LIVING WATER

No one other than Jesus has promised us of this free-living water.

Water is essential for our lives, but it's taken for granted since it's available, not expensive, and requires no work from our side. God freely provided us with all necessities for life—oxygen, light, and water! Because we enjoy these provisions at minimal cost, we often neither value nor appreciate them or the Giver. Matt. 5:45 states, the sun rises, and the rain falls on both the good/righteous and evil/unrighteous; they are given to us freely and unconditionally. We only realize the value of those when deprived and without it, leads to death.

We easily understand the lack of necessities in our physical life, but we remain ignorant when deprived of spiritual water. We become spiritually dehydrated when surrounded by polluted waters and forget of the “living water” He has promised for us. In Rev. 22:17, we read of those who thirst can freely drink from the water of life if they choose to. No one other than Jesus has promised us of this free-living water. The specialty of the water that Jesus gives is that whoever drinks the water will never thirst, and will become a spring of water in us welling up to eternal life (John 4:14). In John 7:37-39, we see again an invitation to those who are thirsty to come and drink; Jesus reveals this water as the Holy Spirit.

This water is also seen in Ezek. 47:9,12 as a river that couldn't be passed over, and in Rev. 22:1-2 as the water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of life and of the Lamb. We all know that Jesus Christ is the Lamb who was slain for our sins (Rev. 5:12), He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the

punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds, we are healed (Isa. 53:5).

We should be aware of the living water (Holy Spirit), which is given freely and unconditionally to us through Jesus by accepting that He died for our sins. Let's make sure that we trust in Him so that the rivers of living water flow out to quench the thirst of many spiritually dehydrated ones around us. May God give us the grace to be faithful until the end.

Dr. Jais Jacob is an MSN, FNP-C, MD, CIC, who was caught by the love of Christ at her young age. She was able to face hardships and challenges in her walk with Christ by the grace of God. She earnestly desires to lead a victorious Christian life, and please God, in order to be called a “good and faithful servant” at the end of the day!

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Dr. Binu Daniel

“GO AND DO LIKEWISE” TO GET ETERNAL LIFE!

they love God, but they do not consider it as their duty to help others. But a Samaritan, a born enemy of the Jews, who was on a journey, came to him and helped him to come back to life. Jesus chose the Samaritan in the parable to depict the love as being exhibited in the maxim ‘love your neighbor as your own.’ The good Samaritan took the risk and helped the Jew to get his life back. As we all know, God is love;

He loves mankind unconditionally. To get eternal life, we must love the people and show mercy on the people who are in dire need and thus proclaim the everlasting message. God is our everlasting good Samaritan.

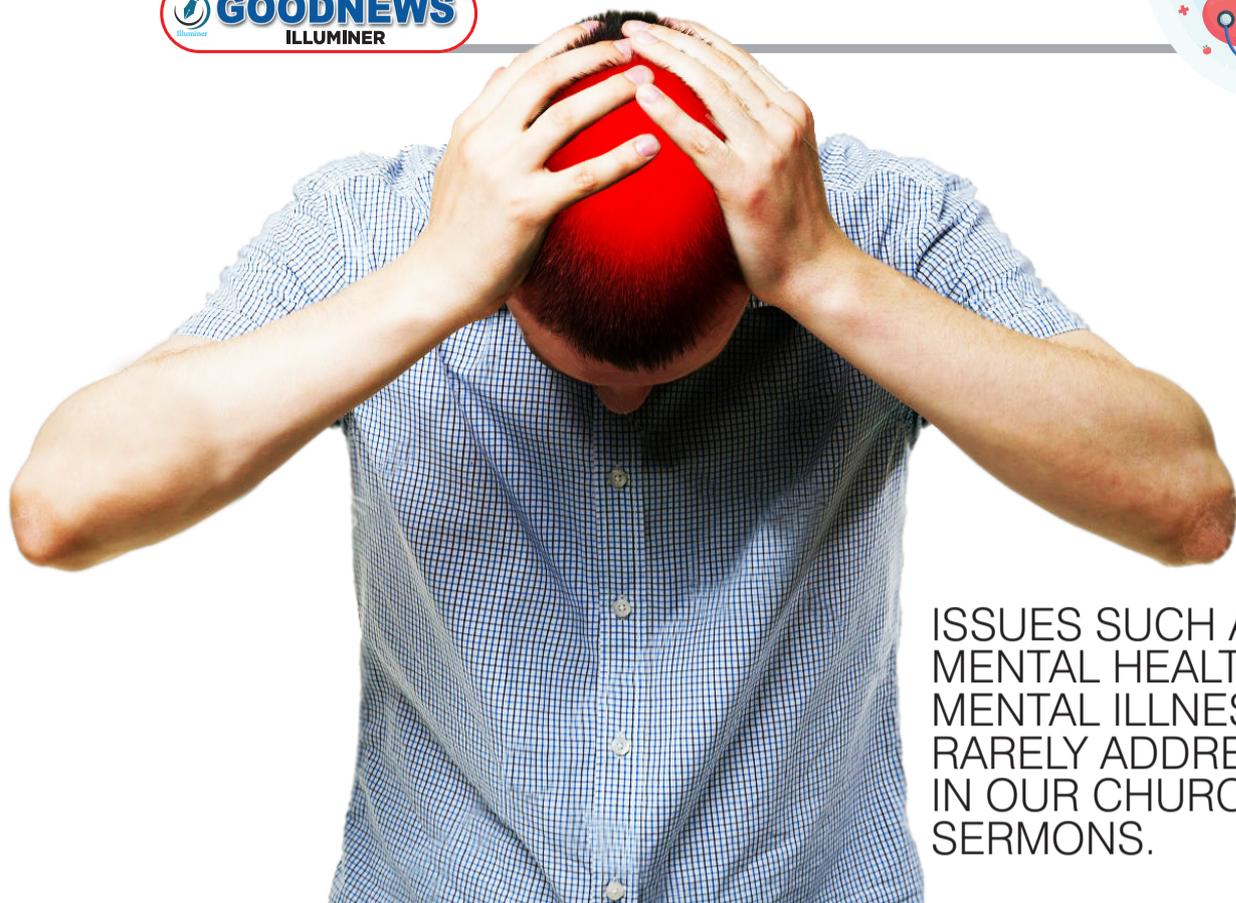
FROM HISTORY

GOOD SAMARITANS OF 9/11

On September 11, 2001, the world woke up by hearing the plane crashes at the twin towers, namely the World Trade Center in New York, USA. The purposeful strikes at the financial center of the USA lead to the death of 2,977 people and injured thousands. Since it happened on the 9th month's 11th day, history refers to it as the 9/11 attacks. In North America, 911 is also the telephone number to call emergency services like police, fire force, and paramedics. The first respondents took charge of the situation within ten minutes after the first plane crash and lowered the death toll. In this 19th year of the 9/11 commemoration, we thank and remember those Good Samaritans who risked their own lives to save the lives of others. As John 15:13 says, “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.”



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ISSUES SUCH AS MENTAL HEALTH OR MENTAL ILLNESSES ARE RARELY ADDRESSED IN OUR CHURCHES OR SERMONS.

Christians as Good Samaritans in mental health crises

Millions of people across the globe are affected by mental illnesses each year. Besides, the current pandemic COVID-19 sure does take a severe toll on mental health. Mental health is still typically poorly understood, under-diagnosed, under-reported, and undertreated. Mental health is an integral part of health; indeed, there is no health without mental health (World Health Organization; WHO). However, mental health has long been a controversial subject among Christians and kept at bay within the church communities. It is worth knowing how little our churches know about mental illnesses and how stigmatized this topic is among us Christians. Issues such as mental health or mental illnesses are rarely addressed in our churches or sermons. We can see several examples throughout the scripture, such as “The parable of

Good Samaritan” (Luke 10:30-35), which teaches us how our churches can minister to those with mental illnesses.

SIGNIFICANCE OF MENTAL HEALTH AND MENTAL ILLNESSES

The shared thoughts or the words that come to our mind when we hear the word ‘mental illness’ is usually “oh, she or he is crazy or nuts or insane.” That often has to do with what we have seen or heard in our community or culture. Mental health and mental illnesses are two standard terms used interchangeably, but what do they mean? According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), mental health is the emotional, psychological, and social well-being, affecting how we think, feel, act, or handle stressful situations. Mental illness is a broad term and can take many forms. Many of us have experienced various emotions such as ‘feeling sad, down, dull, unhappy,

upset, easily irritable, overwhelmed, etc.’ from time to time with circumstances, but that doesn’t indicate we are mentally ill. Mental illness is a medical condition that disrupts a person’s thinking, feeling, mood, ability to relate to others, and daily functioning. While anxiety and depression are the most common mental illnesses we often hear, there are many other mental illnesses. Some of the common ones are mood disorders such as Major depressive disorder (264 million worldwide), Bipolar disorder (20million worldwide), etc. , anxiety disorders such as generalized anxiety disorder, panic disorder, Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), Obsessive-



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compulsive disorder (OCD), etc., psychotic disorders such as schizophrenia (45million worldwide), schizoaffective disorders, etc., Neurocognitive disorders such as delirium, dementias (50 million worldwide), etc. , personality disorders, substance abuse conditions, etc. The recent statistics are startling, and they estimate that nearly 13% world population (971 million people) suffer from some form of mental illnesses, 1 in 5 adults in the U.S., that is, 43.8 million people experience mental illness in a given year, 1 in 10 people suffer from depression, and 21.4 percent of youth from 13-18 years will experience a severe mental disorder at some point during their lifetime. Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the U.S., the 3rd leading cause of death for people aged 10–24, and the 2nd leading cause of death for people aged 15–24. Several factors could contribute to mental illnesses, including biological factors such as physiology, biochemistry, and genetic factors, psychological factors such as emotional experiences and a person’s upbringing, Social factors such as a person’s cultural background and current lifestyles.

Mental illnesses and churches (will be continued in- Part II)

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Moses Mathew

The power of Samson

by Delilah’s nagging (day after day) to reveal his secret of strength and eventually he opened up everything. He got seized and his eyes were gouged out. He was in shackles, weak, and down.

The word of God through the life of Samson teaches and, at the same time warns us of the consequences of misdeeds. Samson’s transgressions led him to breach his vow— the most important code of conduct which a Nazirite must follow. We should not fail to understand by this the fact that God never compromises with his holiness and his covenant. Although in the end, God showed his kindness towards Samson and empowered him one last time to take the revenge of Philistines. We should always be very conscious about the power of Spirit which is granted to us and which dwells in us. It should always wax, not wane.



PREPARING TODAY'S CHILDREN FOR TOMORROW'S CHALLENGES

David's life is a testament to the importance of training our children to prepare for life.

When we are first introduced to David, he is an unassuming teenager who is out alone in the fields tending to his father's sheep. He does not appear to possess any signs of greatness and certainly not any of the qualities desired in a king. However, unbeknownst to even David's father, the responsibilities that David was tasked with from a young age had created the perfect training ground for him to prepare for his anointed role. You see, God used these seemingly inconsequential moments to EMPOWER David to be the king of Israel.

Being a shepherd equipped David with skills that would serve him well in life. It honed his survival instincts and taught him resilience, patience, endurance, and humbleness. In the years that followed, God continued to place David in situations that would test his mettle and add to his repertoire:

- David's dealings with Saul taught him how to respect authority, face persecution, act with honor, and handle crises.
- His meeting with Ahimelech sets the ground for David to understand the constant battle between good and bad and the importance of staying true to oneself and God in the face of fear.
- David accepted responsibility for his actions when he admits to Abiathar that he alone is responsible for the death of Abiathar's family.

- He demonstrated nobility of character when despite being parched and offered water by his chief warriors; he refuses to drink it because he understands that in their attempt to get the water for him, they had put their own lives at risk.
- David learned to love not just the people who stood for him, but also against him like his own son, Absalom.

themselves to their families and their communities, to rise against the Goliath's of the world and when need be, offer the olive branch. Therefore, let us mirror for them what we want them to see in themselves and the people around them and then let us encourage them to be like David - a skilled musician, a man of strength and valor, a prudent speaker, and a man after God's own heart.

David's life is a testament to the importance of training our children to prepare for life within the framework of God's commandments, expectations, and timing. It is a reminder to us that we are raising a generation that will be called to take on the mantle of Christ, standing in the gap for their peers, to devote



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Dr. George Samuel

LIFE AFTER DEATH

3. Can you explain briefly the Biblical understanding of what happens when a person dies?

According to Genesis 2:7, man became a "living soul". This means the spirit (or soul) is not the body, nor is it merely the energy of life. Many scientists believe that in addition to the brain at work, there is a non-material reality

that accounts for our sentience. A living soul can be a being capable of knowing its existence and environment. Both the Old and the New Testaments affirm the immortality of the soul or the soul surviving death. Immortality has to do with the continuance of the personality after death.

The Bible speaks of man as a being made up of body and soul. The soul is intended and adapted for life in the body. With the entrance of sin, the body sank under the law of death. God did not abandon us. He brought into operation the law of love to save us. The person who is rightly related to God in union with Christ can retain the blessedness even in the state of separation from the body. In the disembodied state, the person is indeed with Christ and rests in the blessedness of unbroken fellowship with Him.

Only after the body is glorified, that man will be blessed perfectly. True

immortality is through the redemption, which embraces the resurrection of the body. The resurrection sees man as a soul-body unity. It is in the perfected state that the whole person, body and soul, enjoy the blessedness. It will be the redemption of man in his whole personality.

According to the Bible, our destiny is "to be made into the image of Christ" (Romans 8:29). This conformity to Christ includes not only the moral and spiritual likeness but also likeness to Him in His glorious body. The redemption of the body is an essential and integral part of the biblical view. Everyone is going to get a new immortal body. The question is where that body will spend eternity - with God or separated from Him forever.

4. Please explain a little more about immortality and resurrection?

We cannot understand the resurrection from natural causes. It is a miracle, and Paul gives the answer touching on the point of identity between the new body and the old (1 Corinthians 15:36-38). We are told about the glory of the natural body and that of the spiritual body. Immortality in the biblical sense is more than mere continued existence. It is 'eternal life,' a phrase used in the Bible to describe the quality of life as well as the length or duration of existence. We can view immortality in terms of growth, fellowship, and service with Christ. This makes heaven a delight towards which we look in keen anticipation. In terms of duration, someone said, "Our life remains as long as God remains."

HISTORIC MIDDLE EAST PEACE DEALS



Israel entered into new agreement with the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain after the deals were brokered by the U.S. President Trump. In the words of White House senior advisor Jared Kushner, this is a watershed moment since nobody thought this would be possible. On Tuesday afternoon, Trump was joined by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, U.A.E. Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed al-Nahyan, and Bahrain Foreign Minister Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalif, to sign the Abraham Accords. The deals reached by the

Gulf states involve exchanging of ambassadors, establishment of embassies, and mutual co-operation on various fronts including trade, security, and tourism. U.A.E and Bahrain are the third and fourth Arab countries after Egypt and Jordan, who have recognized Israel since its founding in 1948. Netanyahu said that for thousands of years Jewish people have prayed for peace and hence they are filled with profound gratitude at the signing of the agreements.

ISRAEL IMPOSE THREE-WEEK SHUT DOWN DUE TO 2ND CORONAVIRUS WAVE



A second nationwide lockdown was imposed by Israel on Friday since it continues the struggle to contain the new outbreak of coronavirus. This lockdown for at least three weeks will continue till early October, and intent to prevent mass gatherings during the Jewish holidays of Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur, and Sukkot. The country is now faced with a surge of 4,000 new daily infections. The measures announced include - no more than 10 people can meet indoors; schools and shopping centers will be closed; but supermarkets and pharmacies can remain open to the public. It is estimated that this second lockdown will cost the economy \$1.88 billion.

Gene-editing successful in livestock

Scientists were successful in producing gene-edited animals that could serve as “super dads” which carries only the genetic traits of donor animals. This could genetically enhance the livestock by bringing desirable characteristics, and improve food production for the growing global population. Also, researchers claim that this technology could help in conserving endangered species. Approval for human consumption of gene-edited livestock have not been granted yet due to concerns over food safety, ethical issues, and animal welfare.

Oracle wins TikTok's U.S. Assets

Oracle will partner with TikTok in the United States after Microsoft lost its bid. This sale, though its exact nature is still unclear, came about due to the executive orders issued by the U.S. President Donald Trump on August 6th seeking to ban TikTok in the country. Trump and other politicians were of the opinion that the app is a threat for national security. Microsoft's pursuit of TikTok was considered a great opportunity for it to annex one of the world's fastest growing social media platforms. Walmart was also in the fray for a potential deal of TikTok, and is said to be still interested in an investment; hence is still in discussions with the Beijing-based parent company, ByteDance.



LARGEST WILDFIRES IN U.S. HISTORY

The U.S West Coast is faced with one of the largest wildfires in nearly 100 years, with over 25 people dead and nearly 5 million acres destroyed. Dense smog from the wildfires is smothering the coastal cities, and as of Saturday the five of world's most polluted cities were on the West Coast. More than 20,000 firefighters are battling the fires, with no end to the blazes in sight. The combined effect of COVID, extreme heat, wildfires, and air pollution are all proving to be detrimental to public health.

Canada expanding assisted dying

According to news sources, Canadian government is seeking to enhance the medical-assisted death available to more people. This will allow Canadians with certain diseases like cerebral palsy and other degenerative diseases to seek death by medical assistance. More than 13,000 medical-assisted deaths have been reported to have occurred in Canada. Two-thirds of the patients who died thus cited cancer as the underlying reason. According to the Bill C-14, a physician or nurse practitioner can directly administer to the requestor or prescribe a substance to self-administer, that causes death.