



**Check us out ONLINE!**

Israel and United Arab Emirates have reached a historic agreement to normalize and establish full diplomatic relations. The deal announced Thursday, August 13th, also marks a freeze of the annexation of Palestinian territories in the West Bank. According to the terms of this agreement, Israel will not only suspend its plans to declare sovereignty over areas that were outlined in President Trump's Middle East peace proposal, but also will work towards expanding its ties with other Arab countries. This deal is an outcome of the facilitation by US President Donald Trump, Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed.



## LANDMARK AGREEMENT

deal after Egypt and Jordan, since Israel's independence in 1948. The normalization was enthusiastically supported by the political leaders of both Republican and Democrat parties of USA, as well as by the national leaders around the world. Christian leaders and pastors have also come out with their appreciation and support. UAE publicly recognizing the State of Israel will contribute towards stability and peace in the Middle East. It is expected that more Arab countries will follow the lead of the UAE.

Amidst anticipations of a peaceful Israeli-Arab world, this deal was condemned by Iran, Turkey, and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. Whereas, Egyptian President and Jordanian Foreign Minister welcomed the deal.

According to released statements, in the upcoming weeks delegations from Israel and UAE will convene to sign bilateral agreements in investment, energy, water, environmental protection, direct airline flights, tourism, establishing embassies, and many others. This is only the third Israel-Arab peace

## Walking in the dark



Blasts in Beirut, Lebanon on the afternoon of 4th August killed at least 171 and injured over 6000 causing more than \$10 billion in property damage. COVID-19 cases continue to rise worldwide and is standing at 21 million affected as of today, and lately India is seeing a surge in positive cases. Flooding in Europe, Middle East, Africa, Australia, and India have resulted in millions affected; with over 180,000 in Sudan, 35,000 families in Yemen, and well over 7 million in India, affected drastically.

Pandemic, social unrest, hate crimes, economic downturn around the globe, and emotional struggles; it is mayhem everywhere to say the

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## DEADLY ICE CREAM

### - Lovers of Self



Alwin Benny is a 24-year-old boy who lives in Kerala, India. He is now the center of an alleged murder case, which is taking the media by storm. The charge against him and the reason for his arrest is that the police believe he killed his 16 year old only sister Ann Mary Maria, on August 5, 2020. According to the news reports, he premeditated the murder of his

family members, and served them ice cream laced with rat poison. Why would he commit such a heinous crime against his own sibling? The police say that he was angry with his parents and his sister for standing against his wild wishes. He was not fond of his parents who objected to his friendship with certain people and was conscious of his sister who knew about his behavior

and feared that she might tell them. He imagined he would be able to grab the familial property and run away with it to make a comfortable life. The case investigation is progressing, and the police are trying to unearth further details of the crime. In our times we are not so unfamiliar with such news around us.

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Stop fixing yourself, and fix your heart and mind In Christ Jesus, who already fixed your life for you.



Health Corner

CHRIST IN YOU  
MAKES YOU  
STRONG



EDITORIAL

# A True Christian

**We need His grace and divine power to affect the work of continued transformation so that we may forgive and forget!**



Pastor. Joshin John

work of continued transformation so that we may forgive and forget!

If there are True Christians, then there are False Christians who feign truth in words but are always liars (Titus 1:12). They trap True Christians in nets of falsehood (1 Tim 1:10), and their destination is the lake of fire (Rev 21:8). With a mouth full of mission but a stomach full of poison, they are the tares which appear like wheat, but are indeed not!

True Christians are those being transformed continually, living their lives in verity, and serving God in sincerity and truth. They are enriched by every spiritual blessing in Christ Jesus, provided for life and godliness by the divine power of God, and are eagerly awaiting the advent of Christ. The mark of a True Christian is the continual striving to be like Christ in words and deeds. Such, who being progressively transformed, are exhorted by Apostle Paul to persistently commit themselves into the hands of God who will make them firm to stay blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 1:6). We absolutely need Christ daily to be True Christians!

Francis Schaeffer wrote in his book 'The Mark of the Christian' that "I have observed one thing among true Christians in their differences in many countries: What divides and severs true Christian groups and Christians - what leaves a bitterness that can last for 20, 30, 40 years - is not the issue of doctrine or belief that caused the differences in the first place. Invariably, it is a lack of love - and the bitter things that are said by true Christians in the midst of differences."

Even True Christians can be wounded by words that may continue to fester over time. Differences in opinions may be forgotten, but the lies and bitter words need not be! Christ living in us is the spiritual reality at salvation, but it does not always get appropriated in all facets of a Christian's life. We need His grace and divine power to affect the

Our Advisors



**CV MATHEW**  
Chief Editor  
GoodNews  
Weekly



**TM MATHEW**  
Publisher  
Goodnews  
Weekly

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

**The Mission :** Provide the reader with guidance for life and godliness through inspired authors.

**The Guiding Principles :**

- We value Integrity and Excellence in all our work.
- We are committed and hold ourselves responsible to our readers and the Church for any information that we deliver.
- We always strive for creative thinking and provide the best quality news.
- We do all for the glory of God.
- We are part of and guided by the principles of Goodnews Publication House.

## Walking in the dark

Continued from Page 1

least. Though news media gives a ray of hope of a vaccine found for the virus, the lack of sufficient testing of the same is a concern that many cannot ignore. Economy is on a slow recovery and will take many months to get back to where it was a year ago. Attacks on racial lines and arson of public and private properties are adding to the tension. Working from home have become a new norm unbeknownst to many hitherto, with the side-effect of emotional struggles due to lack of social personal interaction. Online schooling of children is trying to tip the already delicate work-life balance in this season of social distancing.

Amidst all these surrounding dark shadows, may we lift our eyes to the hill from where our help comes; which is Calvary's hill where darkness briefly covered the Sun of Righteousness. But the final say was not uttered by darkness, but by Light when it declared "It is finished". Although Light stayed temporarily in the tomb; it was not too long before the Son came out declaring death defeated. What is happening around us stems from sin and the decay it brings in the world; but we have Christ the victorious holy One living in the inside working on our outside making all the change in our lives!

## LOVERS OF SELF

Continued from Page 1



On Tuesday, July 28, 2020 Merin Joy a Malayalee Nurse from India on her last working day was leaving Broward Health Coral Springs, Florida, USA . The police said that she left the hospital about 7:30 am after her night shift and got to her car; her husband Mathew found her and stabbed her repeatedly, then drove over her with his car. Merrin Joy died the same day morning at 8:51 am.

In any such instance, what may be the reasons and causes one ventures into such drastic heinous and cruel acts? No simple answer is enough to explain such. It is quite a baffling question for spiritual leaders, parents, and teachers on how to show the younger generation the right way to lead a life of being better citizens and even better Christians. In the case of Alwin, the outcome of his behavior and thought lead to ultimate disaster and tragedy. Though many of us do not resort to such extreme measures, it is not wrong to admit that we do just as much harm to others through our own behaviors and thoughts.

For us as God's children, we must go back to the values the Bible teaches us. The values we learn from the Bible are definitely not based on materialism, competition, and comparison. Family is where any individual learns happiness and positive values for life. Do not instill materialism into our children's mind, rather let them learn to live a responsible life which is accountable to themselves, their family,

and the society. The lifestyle and communication of parents always influence a child's valuation and approach to material things and comforts. Teach children to give more value to people than things. When they learn to live life with this responsibility, then they will be able to make their life successful.

Competition between siblings is a result of parents foolishly comparing their child with the other. An attitude of competition can cause insecurity, jealousy, and rivalry between siblings. Let our families be centers of happiness and joy, a replica of the Kingdom of God. "For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit" (Romans 14:17). Let us ensure fair practices, initiate peace, and celebrate the joy of God's rule in our families. Consider ourselves ambassadors of the Kingdom of God.



Sam Chiramel, Bangalore



Rev. Thomas Samuel, London, U.K.

## Felicitation



Finny Mathew  
Board Member  
Goodnews Foundation

It is my great joy to welcome the new Publication of the Goodnews Foundation. The "GOODNEWS ILLUMINER" is the beginning of the new era of Goodnews Weekly. As a part of the staggered growth we started the English pullout in the Malayalam weekly a decade ago, but it eventually went under the rug. Then we started our internet edition in 2006, but it was on and off without technical support. But in God's Sovereign time, He made an English edition possible. "Unless we are willing to learn from our failures we will fail to grow. Self-evaluation produces insight and that helps us to grow with the possibility of change and growth."

We have come a long way from the English pullout to English monthly edition with 17 team members from 9 countries working remotely! In this "NEW NORM", change has become a necessity in the printing and publishing world as well. May God bless the talents and technology.

I recognize that most of those involved have grown up with 'Goodnews Bala-lokam' (youth club). I remember that the founders of the Publication House had the same vision and passion, and their dedication along with God's grace was an invaluable ingredient as the driving force of Goodnews. It is no secret that our founding fathers are still an inspiration to most of the new team members.

As the Scriptures says to

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### BROKEN BREAD

# CHRIST IN YOU: GOD'S ECONOMY

**The key to reconciliation is Christ's administration in every individual and community.**

Human history is stained with bloodshed, triggered by a range of disparity: caste, culture, color, creed, and class. The world has not fully recovered from the pain inflicted through racial conflicts: apartheid, holocaust, the civil rights movement; and religious conflicts: crusades and jihad. When Jesus entered history, the situation was not different. Along with the cruel domination of foreign powers, slavery and racial discrimination stratified human society. Jesus' life and ministry assured hope for the world not just in terms of individual salvation (a reduction of current evangelism) but the restoration of the vexed human societies. Paul's profound understanding of this core purpose of the gospel is well reflected in his epistles. While the phrase 'in Christ' (en Christo) frequently occurs in the Pauline epistles, one of his rare assertions, "Christ in you (plural) the hope of glory" (Col 1:27) is introduced as a mystery unraveled (1:26). It is

an assurance of Christ's presence among the Gentile community of Colossae. He discloses to Colossians a reality that is central to God's plan.

Christ's followers faced fierce persecution from its twin enemies, the Jews and the Romans, at its inception. Envisaging extinction of the movement, both groups strived hard for its destruction, only to witness its exponential growth and spread in a short span of time. Saul, one of the arch-rivals of the movement, met the risen Lord at the heights of his pursuit of wiping out the movement from the face of the earth. This

*Continue on Page 04*

Rev. Thomas Samuel is Minister at Word of Hope Christian Fellowship Luton (affiliated to AOG, U.K.), and Chaplain at NHS Bedfordshire Hospitals U.K.; online Discipleship Coach with Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. He has an M.Phil (New Testament) from Middlesex University, London; M.A in Sociology from H N Bahuguna University, UP, India; and M.Th from SAICS, Bangalore. He is a former Lecturer at IPC Theological Seminary, Kottayam, Kerala. He is married to Praisyy and they have three children.

## Felicitation

Goodnews Publications is on the rise! Launched as a four-page black and white tabloid weekly, we have travelled great distances to reach where we are now to have publications in print as

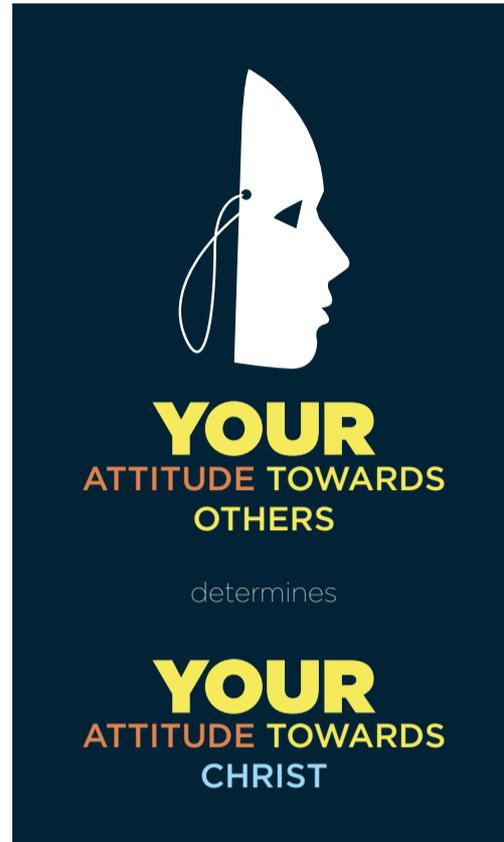
well as electronic media. We were able to grow from a small and humble beginning. God's hand was with us in all our endeavors because it is the ministry mandate given by God to us. Because of

the dedication of many brothers and sisters from around the world, we have been actively publishing for over 43 years. Goodnews was also instrumental in molding

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Saji Kathettu  
News Editor  
Online Goodnews



# “Christ in you”

## A Theological Exposition

“The Holy Spirit brings the life of Christ because He is the Spirit of Christ.”

Understanding the theology and its implications of “Christ in you” helps a believer to see the beauty and the splendor of Christian life. To get a broad and panoramic vision, one must understand the meaning, the means, and the motive of this spiritual reality.

### THE MEANING

The concepts of “in Christ” and “Christ in us/you” lie at the center of Pauline theology. Although it is a

mystery, it is not an abstract idea but a true spiritual reality. Paul uses this “in” language to depict the truth of believers’ union with Christ. The incarnation of Christ is the kernel of this union. He assumed humanity so that in him humans can participate in the very divine life of God. In Christ, as humanity and divinity co-exist, this divine-human communion is accomplished. This union is both objective and subjective. This union is objective because through the mediating life of Christ, it was already achieved in him for all humanity. This union is subjective because believers can experience this union personally when they believe Christ as their savior and Lord. Therefore, “Christ in you” means believers’ participation in the divine life that Christ had made possible through his vicarious ministry.

### THE MEANS

If this is a real union, then how is this accomplished in each believer? The answer is—by receiving the Holy Spirit. The Spirit brings the life of Christ because he is not any Spirit but the Spirit of Christ (Rom 8:9). All those who have the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit belong to Christ and experience this mystery of “Christ in you.”

### THE MOTIVE

The purpose of this union is to make each believer Christlike. In Gal 4:19, Paul says, “I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you.” Through his vicarious life, although Christ had accomplished this union, its application by the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit in each believer is a gradual process. Through this process, the Holy Spirit transforms believers from glory to glory until the perfect image of Christ is reflected. While perfection awaits in the future, growth is certain in the present.

In summary, the meaning of “Christ in you” is one’s union with Christ. This union is achieved through Christ’s incarnation and his mediational life. By means of the Holy Spirit, this union is subjectively realized in each believer. The whole purpose of “Christ in you” is to make each one like Christ, who is the true image of God. The perfection of this spiritual reality lies in the future, and when that happens, God’s original plan and purpose of creating humans will be fully restored.



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.

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Rev. Thomas Samuel, London, U.K.

## CHRIST IN YOU: GOD’S ECONOMY

encounter not only caused a radical shift in his understanding of God and His intervention in history but also reframed his worldview with a fresh perspective on God’s economy (oikonomian, administration) (Col 1:25 cf Eph 1:10; 3:2, 3:9). Paul’s epistles to Ephesians and Colossians wrote from prison, present Christ as an agent of reconciliation of stratified human societies (Col. 1:20, 22 cf. Eph 1:10; 2:14-16), something that Paul, the Pharisaic-Jew, could not comprehend prior to his conversion. Therefore, the key to reconciliation today is to perceive Christ in every individual and community, which is God’s plan hidden for ages for many like Paul, but now revealed through Christ. The glory of God will not manifest until the Church submits to God’s economy (administration). God calls the Church to be the agent of change in a broken world.

### Felicitation

Saji Kathettu

Continued from Page 03

many young journalists, writers, church leaders, preachers, social workers, and so on.

After the dawn of ‘Online Goodnews’ and ‘Goodnews Live,’ I am delighted that we could launch the English version “Goodnews Illuminer” last month. I hope that this new initiative will help in spreading the Christian values to all people around the world, especially to our youth.

I hope and pray that God may bless the publication of Goodnews Illuminer, which is the work of a distinguished group of Pentecostal youngsters living in different countries of the world under the guidance of Wesley Mathew, Bonny George, and Pastor Joshin John.

My sincere Christian wishes to everyone behind this great endeavor!



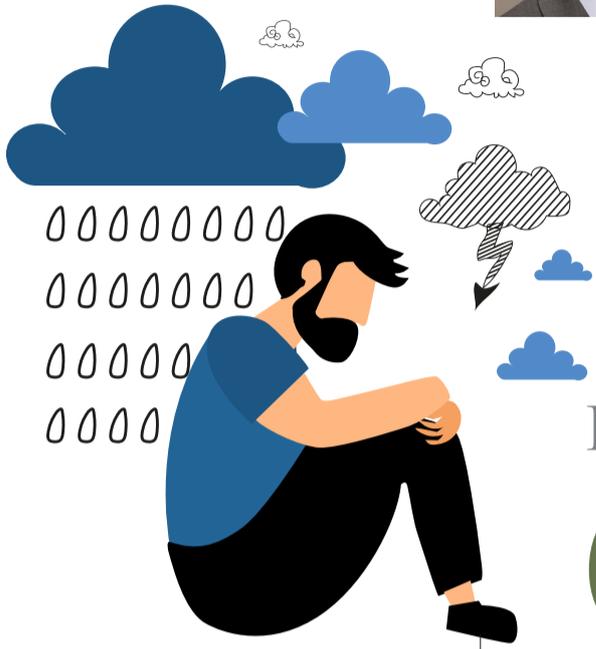
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**Check us out ONLINE!**



**Stop  
fixing yourself,  
and fix your heart  
and mind In  
Christ Jesus,  
who already fixed  
your life for you.**

**BROKEN BREAD**



Knowing who you are in  
**Christ**  
reveals the  
**Christ in you**

**A**postle Paul vividly uses the phrases “In Christ” and “Christ in you” in much of his writings. The Church in Corinth failed in its mission to display Christ in their lives. And Paul builds his case of discipline and admonishing by helping them understand who they are in Christ. In other words, it’s imperative to be reminded of your identity in Christ, which will flow in your Christian living, and display the Christ in you.

Enriched in Christ Jesus – 1 Cor 1:5-6; 9

The very fact that we are in Christ Jesus has upgraded us in our status of who we are. The value of who we are increased by the price paid on the cross, through the blood of Jesus Christ. The access we have in the Spirit, and the authority, affirmation and acknowledgement we have In Christ Jesus cannot be compared to anything in the world. The word “Enriched” is a term used in nuclear science, where a certain element is enhanced with more value and power. The power that Paul talks about here is the same power that rose Jesus from the dead (Rom 8:11). That resurrecting power is beyond human comprehension. And that changed everything – in all speech and all knowledge. Being in Christ Jesus changes the way we think and talk. We alone have nothing to boast of our own. But the value we have in Christ Jesus cannot be quantitatively confined in human terms of value. We cannot take a breath by our own abilities, without God’s grace. Adding on the analogy of nuclear science, the enriched elements have to always be in a secure place. Otherwise, it will react and cause great harm and damage. We who are enriched in Christ Jesus should always be in that covering – hidden in Christ Jesus (Colossians 3:3). Otherwise, we will react in our flesh and cause great damage to us and those around us – of course, speaking from a spiritual context.

Our perspective of who God is in our lives has to change. When we are trying to solve things on our own, understand that we have nothing to claim of our own. Hence to solve on our own, without the

covering of the grace of God is futile. So, let our situations be handled by God, and be in the awareness that He holds my tomorrow; I just need to hold on to His promise. When you feel lonely, rejected, neglected, depressed, hopeless, worthless; remind who you are in Christ Jesus. Believe in Christ Jesus. When you are in Christ Jesus, you are enriched. So, stop fixing yourself, and fix your heart and mind in Christ Jesus, who already fixed your life for you.

God wants to hang out with us! Sin is what separates us from God. Therefore, being in Christ Jesus fulfills God’s divine design of having fellowship with us. Not conformed to this world, but being daily transformed by the washing of the Word (Rom 12:1-2). When you are acting outside the will of God, according to your flesh, you are outside of God’s covering. This does not stop God from loving us, but we are deliberately distancing ourselves from His love. God loves us, even as sinners. He loved us in our former estate (Eph 2:4). But He cannot have fellowship with us when we are indulged in sin. We cannot have fellowship with God, when we are not in His divinely designed covering – In Christ Jesus. Instead of complaining and blaming God for your circumstance, let us repent and seek forgiveness.

Let us return to the covering that God has provided for us through Christ Jesus. Let us not grieve the Holy Spirit by a lifestyle that deliberately keeps Christ outside. You cannot hope for the world to see the Christ in you, when you are not in Christ. Let this be etched on the walls of our heart: The more I know my identity is in Christ, the more the world will know of the Christ who lives in me.

Rev. 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.

Continued from Page 03

**Felicitation**

Finny Mathew

remember the orphans and widows, we stepped into Charity work and got functional as the ‘Goodnews Charitable Society.’ We have provided support to widows, ran housing projects, extended support for wedding expenses of the needy, and provided education funds, etc. God graciously opened the hearts of many individuals to join this venture.

I have been very privileged to work in various capacities with all the founding members - as a staff member, proofreader, printer and publisher, and now as a Board Member. In hindsight, those initial years were a great time of molding me as well. I would like to extend my full support to our team on their new chapter and challenge each of them to take it to greater heights. Blessings.



Through the storm,  
Through the night, He led me to the

# light



a surgeon with a weak side operate? Hanging up my surgical scrubs, I moved from the operating theatre to the ICU, where patients after surgery are looked after, and I have been working there since. Why am I relating this sordid story of mine to the world?

I love to tell this 'old, old story because it reminds me of Jesus and his love for me.' It reminds me of the bolstering presence of Christ in me. It reminds me I could have died that day, and that Christ chose to be beside me, even though I was unable to request Him so. He was right there to command 'get up and walk.' God, through Christ, has brought me thus far to tell the world that by taking my weak hand, He led me through that stormy night into the light of a new dawn. Jesus was right there – unsolicited – because He cared for me.



Jesus was right there –  
unsolicited – **because He cared for me.**



**I** am a General Surgeon living and working in Cochin in the south Indian state of Kerala. As a surgeon, I was passionately involved in surgical diseases of the abdomen. I enjoyed working inside the abdomen with my scalpel, scissors, forceps, and cautery. At 39, I was doing 'not a bad job,' having been mentored by my boss, a senior surgeon, a tough taskmaster, who settled for nothing less than perfect.

It was the afternoon of January 14th, 2005. I had just operated on a patient with rectal malignancy. After a while, I walked up to the ICU to check on the patient I had just operated. There, I fell with a thud at the nurses' station. A physician taking rounds in the adjacent ICU was summoned by the nurses who were taken aback by my fall. He promptly diagnosed stroke as the reason for my fall. Conscious and alert, I objected to the diagnosis. As with any other patient, my first reaction was to deny the diagnosis. That blood flow to the right side of my brain been cut off by a clot in a large blood vessel was confirmed through specialized investigations. A rapidly swelling brain caused pressure within my skull to build up by the minute. I passed out. I was wheeled off for emergency surgery of my head. When consciousness returned, I realized I had been hooked to a ventilator, from which I was eventually removed. I came back to my own to behold my siblings, my wife, colleagues, paramedics, my mother, and daughters hovering around my bed. After a while, my wife, an anesthetist, related to me what had befallen me. I soon realized my left side was considerably weak. I was elated that I was alive!

Intense physiotherapy and a course of Ayurveda followed. I realized disappointingly that the surgeon in me had died prematurely the day I fell. How could

Dr. George Jacob works as Surgical Gastroenterologist consultant at Lakeshore Hospital in Kochi. He did MBBS and MS (General Surgery) from Government Medical College, Kottayam. His family consists of his wife, who is an anesthetist working at the same hospital as he does, and two daughters. The older daughter is an engineer working in Mumbai, and the younger one is doing her MBA at Manipal. He contributes to the New Indian Express newspaper through opinions, letters to the editor, citizen journalism, and other columns. He has also been published in The Hindu newspaper, and in various online news portals. He has authored two books, 'Kaleidoscope of a Stroke Survivor,' and 'Desert Christmas, the Diary of a Stroke Survivor.' He can also be followed at [writerbychanceblog.wordpress.com](http://writerbychanceblog.wordpress.com).

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CREATOR'S **CREATIVITY**



Grace George 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.

## Possess the traits of your father



WHEN OUR SPIRIT BECOMES BORN AGAIN, **CHRIST IS BORN IN US.**

**H**ave you ever wondered why the ocean is salty? If you've ever been on the beach, then you have probably tasted a little bit of ocean water. Seawater is salty because it contains dissolved minerals called 'salts.' Our relationship with Christ should be similar to the salt in the seawater – wherein we manifest the traits of Christ whenever the world sees and however the world treats us. In other words, 'Christ in us' is like the 'salt in the ocean water.'

It is not a random coincidence when a child exhibits the same set of traits as their parents. Traits are inherited and passed from parent to child through their genes which are called the 'inherited traits.' Apostle John says in John 1:12-13, "But as many as received Him, to them He

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## God is sitting on the throne of our heart

**God expects nothing from us except only our dedication to Him.**

**B**eing Sunday, I woke up early in the morning rather out of habit than piety and not wanting to get up as I was not supposed to go to church for worship because of the prevalence of strict lockdown norms arising out of Covid-19 pandemic outbreak. So, I lay in my bed pondering over the bygone Sundays (the pre-Covid era), when every believer used to be always hectic from early morning for preparing to go to church for worship. As far as believers are concerned, attending churches as part of worship is ritualistically mandatory on Sundays. But the Covid-19 attack on mankind made things change, and it affected the worship pattern too. The rising number of infected Covid patients and resultant lockdown forced all kinds of denominational churches to close indefinitely. So, the faithful too, remained indoors while the churches remained closed.

I still lay in bed thinking and sometimes arguing myself, "Why is this pestering pestilence upon this earth?" The Bible says in Lamentations 3:37-40 that nothing happens without God's permission. So, naturally, it must be inferred that the Covid-19



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.

pandemic wreaked havoc on us not without the knowledge of God, and surely God had permitted it so that everyone should return to Him. Alas and alack, people still wallow in their sinful activities unmindful of the slap having received.

Tossing and turning in bed, I asked myself, "Why did God permit to shut the centers of worship?" Now I laboriously racked my brains to find an answer, and intuitively, a plausible explanation barged into my mind. God has given us complete freedom to live as per our likes or dislikes, and God is not a peeping Tom who wants to poke His nose into our affairs. So, perhaps, the shutdown of places of worship may not be a thing of concern to God though He has known it beforehand.

Afterward, I became more sober-minded and sagacious, and suddenly wisdom began to dawn on me. What God

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# CHRIST IN YOU MAKES YOU STRONG

**N**o man is free of problems, and most problems are man-made. There is a verse in the Bible, “No harm befalls the righteous, but the wicked are filled with trouble.” (Proverbs 12:21). A wicked man thinks the world is full of various fantasies to enjoy, but the righteous does not find pleasure in them. The wicked tries to act upon all evils in this world with little regard for the consequences, and as a result, they fall into various unnecessary troubles and fail to find peace. But the righteous do not assign any relevance to these worldly pleasures, as they are sure that it will bring only trouble rather than peace.

Some people out of desperation have turned to alcoholism to defeat their problems. But the abuse of alcohol takes away the moral virtues in individuals, leading to a spike of crimes in society. Problems beget problems. Whatever type of peace is offered by the world to fix societal problems cannot be a lasting one compared to the peace God gives us. John 14:27 says ‘The peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. Not as the world gives do I give to you.’ To get the real peace, one has to turn to God. If Christ lives in you, you don’t have to worry about being weak because Christ’s peace will rule your heart and give you strength.

God-loving character does not guarantee righteousness, but a man who fears

*Continue on Page 10*

*Continued from Page 07*

TK Nandan

## God is sitting on the throne of our heart

requires out of us is our complete and implicit dedication. Further, God looks at the heart, but people look at the outward appearance (1 Samuel 16:7). This is the major difference between our thoughts and God’s thought. You can hide anything from anybody as long as you can, but you cannot hide anything from God.

Now I looked at the wall clock - 06.00 am. Then, getting off my bed, I went down on my knees on the floor thanking my Lord, and I remained praying for half an hour. By now, my wife and children got up and were ready to watch our church’s online worship service. Honestly, God put in me as much joy of going to church as I partook in the online services sitting at home. After all, God dwells in us as we read in 2 Corinthians 13:5 and Romans 8:10. He never dwells in the non-humans, as claimed in certain other religious scriptures. So, it does little matter to God whether we worship at home or at church. God expects nothing from us except only our dedication to Him.

**If Christ lives in you,  
you don’t have to worry  
about being weak  
because Christ’s peace  
will rule your heart and  
give you strength.**



Dr. Binu Daniel is a management consultant, teacher, author, and educationist. He has penned many books, and has worked as 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.

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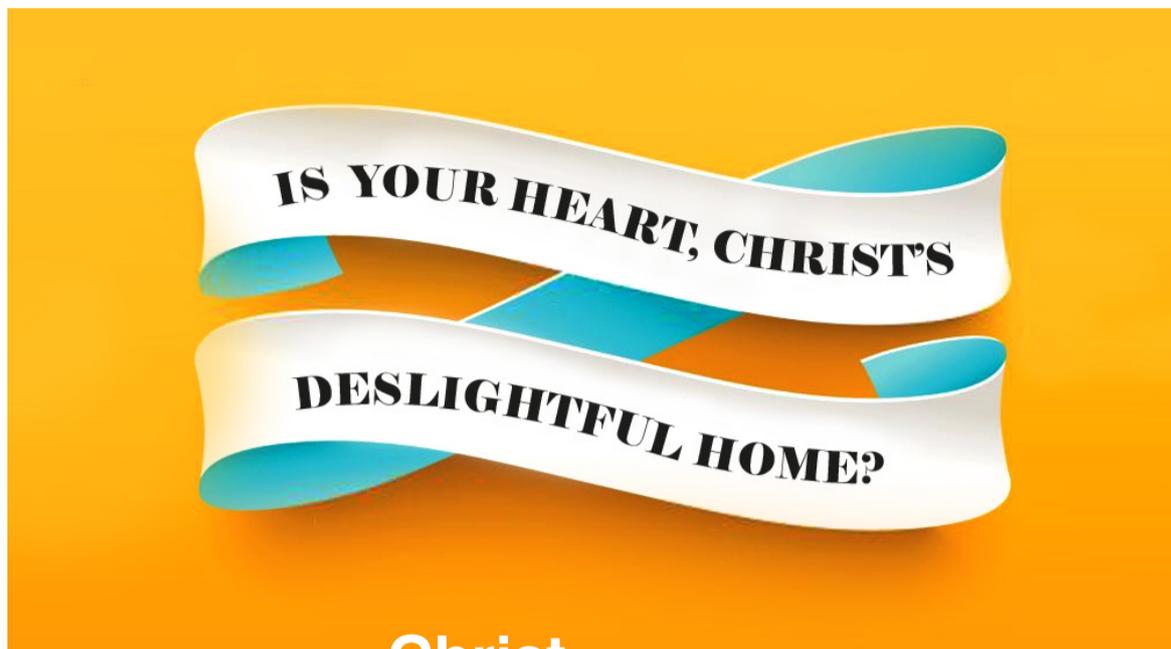
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DEVOTIONAL



## Christ never waits for us to be perfect before He takes up His residence with us.

What a grand mystery! Christ in you, the hope of glory (Colossians 1:27) dwells in your spirit and fills your body with His life, ever-transforming it into the body of His glory! This happens when Christ is sanctified as Lord in your hearts and makes you as His home (Ephesians 3:16-17).

Christ never waits for us to be perfect before He takes up His residence with us. So how do we make our hearts as a beautiful and delightful place of dwelling for Christ? How should we treat Him?

### GREET HIM IN LOVE AND REVERENCE

Acknowledge His kingship and welcome Christ into every aspect of your lives, holding nothing back! Love Him enough to obey Him with your whole heart. If you cannot be close with the Person who resides within, how can you be close with anyone else?

### GIVE HIM THE FREEDOM OF ACTION

Allow Christ, who is in you, to freely do what He desires to do (I Peter 3:15). He would like to move from room to room, remodeling them until every area of your life is suitable for His dwelling. Keep yourself passive, and Christ in you active! Do you have any junk closets or secret hideouts where He is forbidden to enter?



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.

### OFFER HIM THE BEST

Don't we offer our guests the best of all that we have? In fact, we also try to know their likes and dislikes. It must be the same with Christ, who dwells in you, who, after all, is not only great and holy but who is also worthy of our best (Mark 14:3). Have you given Him the best of everything? Do you take time to study His likes and dislikes?

### MAKE HIM A PRIORITY

Your heart should be the place of deepest bond with Christ. He longs for and wants your friendship and fellowship

(Malachi 3:16), so take time to taste the sweetness of His nearness as a true friend – and more! Just imagine living in a house and not being addressed! Aren't you excited to find out what He has to say to you?

### DO NOT GRIEVE HIM

When you grieve Him with your comforts, plans, ambitions, cravings, and sin, He is still there, but instead of filling your house, He withdraws into the attic or is driven into the cellar. What a dangerous state that can be! Hence, you must mortify your sinful actions to be a holy dwelling place for Him. Can you honestly drag everything in your heart out in the glaring Holy light of Christ?

Indeed, to the man who makes his Heart a delightful home of Christ, He opens His very heaven and brings His vast riches within human reach. So, let us continually strive to possess, occupy, and saturate Him in every part of our inward being. And soon, when He returns, He will even transform our outer body so that God's glory can shine through us in its full splendor. The Christ who lives in us is our hope of such glory!

Continued from Page 07

Grace Kathettu

## Possess the traits of your father

gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." Being born again is a process in which we are being born in God. This is when the dead spirit-man is made alive to God, and the Spirit of Christ indwells in His children. The Spirit of Christ displays His traits through the 'inherited traits of the Heavenly Father,' primary among them being love and forgiveness.

Doing good for good is humanity; doing evil for evil is animal nature; doing evil for good is satanic, whereas doing good for evil is Christianity. We show that we are true Christians only when we do good for the people who do evil to us – by imitating Jesus, who returned in love and forgiveness towards the people who crucified Him on the cross.

In Micah 5:2, Bethlehem Ephrathah was described as having less significance, but after the birth of Christ Apostle Mathew paraphrases the same passage in Mathew 2:6 as such: "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel." When our spirit becomes born again, Christ is born in us. We are no longer of less significance since we are now showing the inherited traits of Christ. Having been born again as His children, let us exhibit the inherited traits of our Heavenly Father through the Spirit of Christ who dwells in us.

# Clinical Depression

CHRIST, WHO IS IN US, IS GREATER THAN THE DEVIL WHO IS IN THE WORLD.

**T**he prevalence of clinical depression is on the rise throughout the world during this time of COVID-19. People all over the world have been struggling and are mostly under the fear of the unknown. Depression is not a myth, but it is very real. One of the most affected populations is teens and adolescents; often their depressive symptoms get masked since we think that their melancholy is due to their mood swings, hormonal imbalances, or teenage rebellion. Teenagers and adolescents deal with feelings of insecurity, fear of body image, hopelessness, anger, intense frustration,

or sadness. According to a study published by the World Health Organization (WHO, 2015), over 350 million people suffer from depression, making it the leading cause of disability and suicide.

Depression can cause insomnia (difficulty falling asleep or staying asleep), which is one of the major sleep disorders we see in adolescents and teens. Symptoms of depression may range from loss of self-worth, feeling sad and hopeless, low energy in doing chores, anger and frustration, weight loss or weight gain, or even suicidal thoughts. Depressed teens may sulk, act out, get in trouble at school, express negativity,

and feel misunderstood by others. One study suggests that as many as six students in a classroom may be struggling with depression at any given time (Huberty, 2012).

Depression is real, but so is God's favor upon us. The Word of God tells us to "be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God, He it is that doth go with thee; He will not fail thee, nor forsake

thee" (Deuteronomy 31:6, KJV). God, who promised thus, is faithful. Let us also not forget that a church-going teen or an adolescent growing up in a Christian home can also feel depressed. Nevertheless, we need to reiterate to the stressed minds that Christ who is in us is greater than the devil who is in the world. One of the powerful lies the enemy tries to infuse in both young and adult minds is the feeling of worthlessness. Those lies can entangle human minds unless it is resisted in prayer and by using the Word of God.

The most important step to fight depression is to identify the symptoms and to treat them. Through continued support and prayer, we can help adolescents and teens fight depression and suicidal tendencies.



Jasmine Jacob is a Family Nurse Practitioner (MSN, APRN, FNP-C) in Dallas, and specializing in Neurology & Sleep Medicine.

Continued from Page 08

Dr. Binu Daniel

## CHRIST IN YOU MAKES YOU STRONG

God and shuns evil would be called "a righteous man." God has promised an everlasting offer, which is still valid for all of us. This promise is, "No harm befalls the righteous." The best example is the life of Job in the Bible. Though he lost everything in his life, including his health, no lasting harm was caused to him. Further, he remained steadfast in God's love and fear, and it brought back his life and prepared a table in the presence of his enemies. Living like Job might feel impossible, but we can do one thing – treat our problems just like they are small molecules compared to God's love and His power. So, why should we tremble before a problem? Know that the problems we face – big or small – will not follow us beyond the grave. The inexplicable sorrows and worries we encounter on earth will make sense when we see Jesus face-to-face. That day, He will wipe every tear away.





# Failure

- the mystical term

Failure is possibly the most mysterious word in the world. The world is in pursuit of “success,” which is probably the most popular word. Successful people are always glorified and emulated. Those who have failed are not set as examples; the world may even call them as “good for nothing.” The financially “successful” people provide confidence for many to trust in this lustful world system. The world has established a system that is suited for covetous people. But Christ, our Lord, reached out to the failed, humiliated, and debilitated ones.

In the sight of God, the failed people are the neediest ones. God values the way they struggle and how they toil to reach their destination. Our God has already made a perfect strategy for every person. But the world ignores His predestined strategies for their lives. Had there been someone to listen to people who have failed (without being judged), then they might not consider doing something unthinkable such as harming themselves. Peter is possibly the most fragile and failed person in the Bible, but he remembered the unfailing love of his Master immediately after denying Jesus three times. The kind eyes of his Creator brought forth repentance, his sins were forgiven, and his life was transformed. Likewise, we have to stretch our hands to the failed, broken, and mentally crushed people; and raise them from the pits of depression and failures.

**The kind eyes of the Creator brought forth repentance, his sins were forgiven, and his life was transformed**

Yes, we can turn our failures into success and our tears to joy, provided we trust God! Though we may have failed in the past, we need to look bravely at those failures and lock them up behind us to start a new life because our Lord is a Victorious God. We should not only erase

failures from our life but also be careful in every step to not repeat mistakes!

Aleena Lijo is a child educator with M.A in English Literature from Mahatma Gandhi University. She is working as a teacher in Patna, India; is married to Lijo Varghese with two children.

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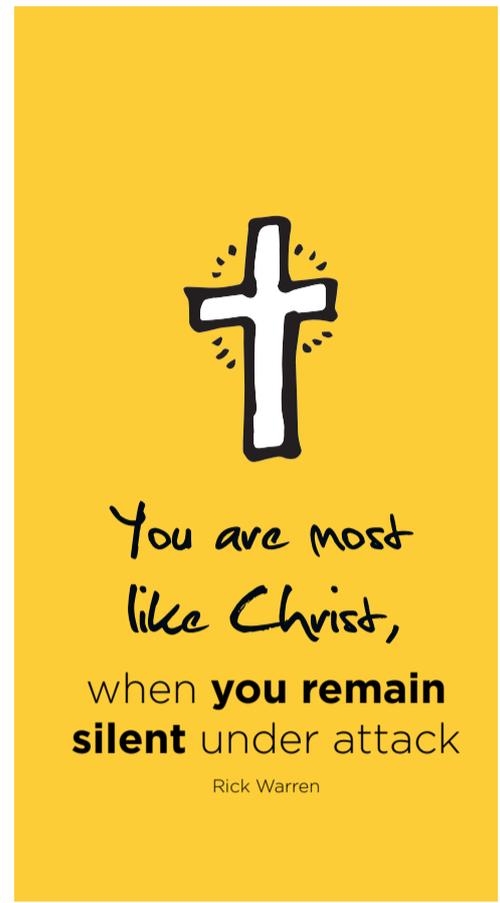


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August 6th and 9th of 1945 are etched in human history for infamous reasons due to the impact of “Little Boy” and “Fat Man” on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Over 200,000 were killed by these atomic bombs dropped by B-29 Bombers on these two Japanese cities, resulting in the surrender of Japan to the Allies on August 15th thereby ending the Second World War. Aircrafts named “Enola Gay” and “Bockscar”

dropped the bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki respectively. Since then, United States and the erstwhile Soviet Union entered an arms-race to develop powerful weapons which are a thousand times as powerful as the bombs that were dropped on the Japanese cities. As of 2020, there are over 13,800 nuclear weapons in the hands of at least nine nations worldwide.



India celebrates its 74<sup>th</sup> Independence Day on August 15th. The provisions of the Indian Independence Act 1947 were passed by the Parliament of United Kingdom. Independence of the nation coincided with the painful partition in which British India was divided along religious lines into India and Pakistan. The date of power transfer was decided by viceroy, Lord Mountbatten who chose the second anniversary of Japan's surrender in the Second World War. The viceroys were the representative of the monarch of the United Kingdom, and The Earl Mountbatten of Burma was the last viceroy of British India and the first Governor-General of independent India. On August 15th, 1947, Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India, hoisted the Indian Flag above the Lahori Gate of the Red Fort in Delhi; and ever since then the incumbent Prime Minister raises the flag and addresses the nation which is televised on national television.

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J.I. Packer, the Canadian noted theologian of the 20th century died on July 17, at the age of 93. Amongst his hundreds of Christian books, the 1973 work “Knowing God” is well known and have sold over 1 million copies in US alone. Packer is known to have taken bold stances for the Word and its application in the post-modern world.