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God's Plan for America

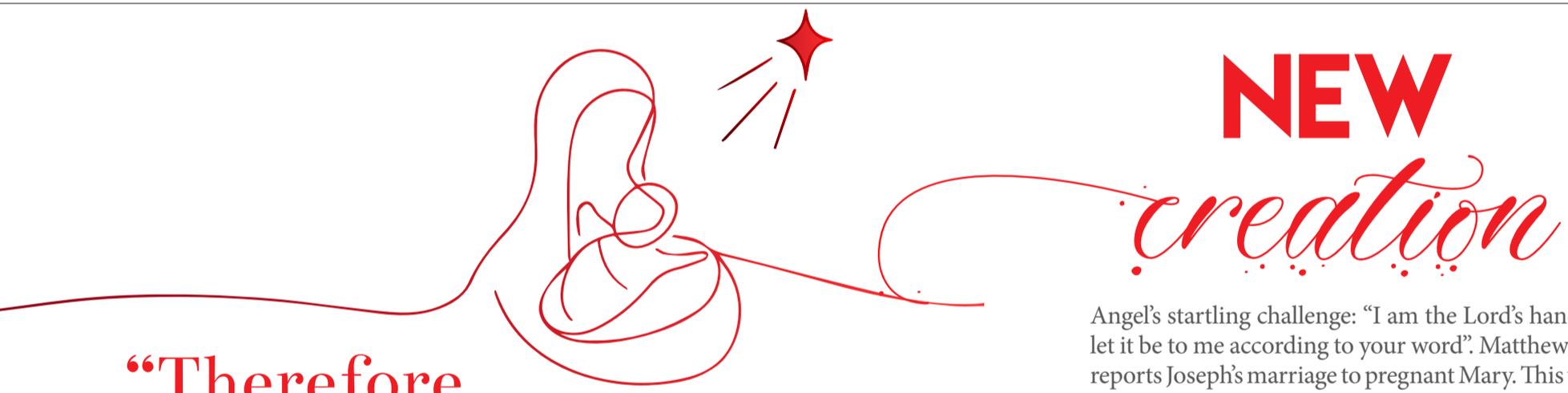
This time, the election in the USA has assumed the greatest significance with God's plan being revealed to many men of God. Unlike in the past, God has revealed his plan in a louder and clearer voice because the concealed and concerted efforts of some vested interest are there

to take America away from the righteous or Godly path. God still remembers and honors the dedication of forefathers of this generation of America to him and how piously they clung on to God while making America great. Spiritually speaking, the world, particularly America, is going

through a decisive era with a lot of anti-Godly plans and activities being contemplated and intended to sabotage the righteous order. More precisely speaking, spiritual warfare is on in the case of America, where the election took place recently to decide whether to change the administration or not. At this juncture, the most unfortunate thing is that a large section of people, especially Christians, are still in the dark about the 'will' of God and sadly many exercised their franchise without knowing the 'will' of God though clear signs and evidence were before them. Nonetheless, God will not forget his covenant with his children, and his 'will' shall prevail over the 'will' of men.

The commendable job done by churches across America in this hour of crisis is to be dutifully remembered and praised. Churches are engaged in fasting rigorously and praying incessantly for ending the impasse associated with the presidential election and surely it is believed God will

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“Therefore,

if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come” (2 Cor 5:17 ESV).

The story of Christmas is about the wonder of New Creation. Just as the creation narrative displays the wonder of God's handiwork so do the gospels of Matthew and Luke. Mary

is a teenager engaged to be married to Joseph according to the local custom. An angel brings to Mary an appointment letter from heaven for a unique task. She is to be pregnant with God's son before her marriage to Joseph is consummated! This will happen just as the Spirit of God envelops her as at creation. Mary is taken aback! Yet gives a pensive reply to the

Angel's startling challenge: “I am the Lord's handmaid; let it be to me according to your word”. Matthew briefly reports Joseph's marriage to pregnant Mary. This was his hardest struggle; how could this be? ‘How can I protect Mary and yet be upright before God and society’? His turmoil is resolved by God's voice through an Angel in a dream. Joseph welcomes Mary as his wife.

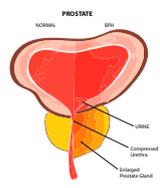
The story of the birth of Jesus is a counter narrative to the first couple in Genesis. Mary and Joseph submitted to God's plan without counting the cost. But Adam followed suit after Eve and disobeyed God. Joseph is

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Health Corner



KNOW THE PROSTATE



KIDS & YOUTH



JESUS OUR SUPER HERO AND THE SUPREME STAR!



Identity in Christ

DEVOTIONAL Page 05

EDITORIAL

Creation in Creator

Puzzle pieces, when put together, bring the beauty that was hidden in individual parts. Looking at just one fragment of the mosaic will not give a complete idea of what the artist intended. A life lived for oneself might satisfy one's selfish desires but will not fulfill what the Master Designer intended for his masterpiece! Our lives find meaning in relation and association - of which the relation with our Creator is supreme, followed by our association with His creation, especially our fellow beings.

In the Garden of Eden, Adam's identity is found in the completeness he finds with God His Maker, and Eve his homemaker. We experience wholeness when we are united with Christ. Blaise Pascal, the famous physicist credited for an important principle of hydrostatics called the "Pascal's law" which led to his invention of syringe that finds its use in vaccinations and medical needs, said,

"There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of each man which cannot be satisfied by any created thing but only by God the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ." Devoid of Christ, we lose our identity and meaning; but in Christ, we find completeness and life's purpose, which is to glorify Him.

Being in Christ happens when we voluntarily give our lives to Him, who died for our sins and rose again from the dead. Just as being in a river of water causes the river to control the person, so also being in Christ means He directs us. The Shepherd of our souls, lead not aimlessly, but into paths of righteousness and divine peace, into pastures of green and to still waters, into restoration and anointing, so that ultimately, we will dwell in His house forever. In such



a relationship comes our association with those within and without the church. Our new identity (new creation) resulting from we being in Christ and Christ being in us will require us to live as saints of God both in Christ Jesus and in our Philippi, which we call our place of abode on earth (Phil 1:1). May we not only have our heart's void satisfied with Christ, but may Christ direct our conduct to display that we are indeed a new creation in Him!

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God's Plan for America

answer their prayers at the right time. However, it is to be remembered at this time that God wants to establish something through this election, for America is the leading country in the world, and any change or deviation from its Godly path would be detrimental to America in particular and to the world in general. So, the role of praying churches is so essential and this makes America mighty and altogether different as God's favor will go with it abundantly. However, evil forces are at work to take the sheen off America and make it weaken. The present election imbroglio is highly intriguing though not interesting and this situation is an occasion for people to introspect whether they are moving in the right direction as per the plan or will of God. And of course, a praying church can please and move God for the greater blessings on America because prayers will be like incense before God.

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



TK NANDAN
Freelance writer

Theme for January : New beginning - Isaiah 43:18-19

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"Once in our world, a stable had something in it that was bigger than our whole world." -C.S. Lewis



TRUE GLORY AND REFLECTED GLORY

Many of the carnal values that crept into the church today through mediocre teachings and practices have relegated the experience of being “in christ” into basking in reflected glory.



The sense of pride and success one feels when their favorite team wins and feeling devastated when their team loses is a common reaction among sports lovers. Psychologists identify this as the phenomenon of Basking in Reflected Glory (BRIGing) (Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 1974). People appear to feel that they can share in the glory of a successful other with whom they are in some way associated. Interestingly, the one who basks in the glory of another has done nothing to bring about the other’s success. Susan Krauss observes that “Cut off Reflected Failure” (CORFing) is an opposite response expressed by fickle fans. They distance themselves from the failed team. However, genuine fans will continue to support and identify with their team despite their failures (Psychologytoday.com, 2011).

Adherence to a particular theological position or a denomination without a genuine commitment to Christ is common in churches today is a similar response. Author Dietrich Bonhoeffer describes this dilemma by using the phrase “Cheap Grace.” He asserts that “Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline ... grace without discipleship, grace without the cross.” On the contrary, he adds, “Costly grace is the pearl of great price to buy which the merchant will sell all his goods. It is the kingly rule of Christ, for whose sake a man will pluck out the eye which causes him to stumble.”

Paul, who was concerned about the believers’ spiritual health, constantly used the phrase en Christo (in Christ). The Greek preposition “en” has two functions: instrumental or locative. The majority of the usages of this phrase in the Pauline epistles are locative. It indicates the mystical union of a believer with Christ. It is not merely “shining

in the light of His glory,” as we often sing, rather it is a reciprocal relationship of mutual indwelling through the Spirit. Paul puts it vividly in Romans 8:9: “You are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if the Spirit of God dwells in you.” The idea of mutual indwelling is real enough to those who live inside the new sphere of spiritual existence. The contexts where this phrase occurs in the Pauline corpus evinces that this union is not reducing Christ from a person to a spirit or “mana,” as Cerfaux argues (Cerfaux, 1956). It brings about ethical and moral transformation (2 Cor 5:17, Eph 1:7); new identity and status (Eph 1:11 Col. 3:3); freedom from condemnation and punishment (Ro 8:1; Gal 3:13; Col 2:14) and finally, resurrection from death and entry to the new age with Christ (1Thess 4:13-18).

Many of the carnal values that crept into the Church today through mediocre teachings and practices have relegated the experience of being “in Christ” into BIRGing. For instance, the momentary feelings and excitement experienced in a worship service or listening to a sermon are sadly misunderstood as the “in Christ” experience while they are far from reality. In a rapidly changing world, those united with Christ through the Spirit’s work emanate true glory from within.

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PR. THOMAS SAMUEL
Word of Hope Christian Fellowship
Luton, UK

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NEW creation

yoked with Mary's surrender; together they pay a heavy price. The family lives in shame. They with their infant become fugitives in a foreign land. Yet God's will is to prosper in their suffering. Jesus on his part in the words of the classic hymn Amazing Grace, 'emptied himself of all but love'. He became poor and vulnerable (2 Cor 8:9). The creator of all humbled himself like one who is created (Rom 8:3). The Holy family's trajectory of obedience to God's will culminates in Jesus' demeaning crucifixion at Golgotha.

In about a quarter of a century after the heart-rending cry of dereliction, uttered by the most perfect doer of all that only pleased God, St Paul sheds fresh light on the silence of heaven! God indeed was not absent at Calvary: he was active and present in the cross. "God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself" (2 Cor 5:19).

The gospel story beginning with the teenager Mary and young Joseph and climaxing in Jesus' death and resurrection is indeed the good news of new creation. The vision of life confessed by the first couple (Gen 3:6) is deceptive. "When the woman saw that the tree was good for food and pleasing the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it". It leads to death! Authentic life emerges within the controlling ambit of God's love imposingly painted by the sufferings of Christ (2 Cor 5:14). The love of God generates life and flourishes it in the love for God. This is the new beginning, the new creation which re-graphs human rationality (2 Cor 5:16) and *raison de etre*.

New creation is both a mindset and lifestyle in antithesis to Gen 3:6. The experience of new creation emerges out of our union with Christ. Participation in new creation is the 'the normal Christian life'. Jesus placed God and the neighbor as his reason to live for. New creation does not tally with selfish consumption or accumulation of wealth. On the contrary, it seeks the welfare of the other within the good pleasure of God. In the light of Gen 3:6, the way of Jesus is at odds with basic human instincts. Under the shadows of Gen 3:6 embracing suffering love in obedience to God and for the welfare of others is a ludicrous misnomer for 'life at its fulness'. New creation rather syncs with Joseph and Mary who inadvertently were privileged to walk in the way of Jesus - the way of the cross - in the power of the Spirit!

New Creation in Christ challenges social segregation that emerged out the rebellion of Eden and Babel. Fragmented humanity has ever since been raising the heights of the walls of partition. Fortification of the collective identity of a group promotes the violent exclusion of the 'other'. Segregation becomes demonic as it denies dignity to the excluded other. This is true of ethnic, economic, gender, caste, color, class, technological and ideological biases. St Paul applies new creation to the human collectives as he calls the bluff of ideologies that segregate. In Gal 6:15-16, he articulated it poignantly: "Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything. What counts is a new creation. Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule, even to the Israel of God". This theme is stated with similar sharpness in Gal 3:28 & Eph 2:11-22.



REV. DR. IDICHERIA NINAN
Bangalore, India

He was Professor of New Testament at South Asia Institute of Advanced Christian Studies (SAIACS); and also served as the General Secretary, ICPF for many years.

Participation in Christ engages a radically renewed mentality and life style. It invites a world at war with God and one another to the peace and reconciliation that God has made through the Gospel. As we decorate this year's cribs humming "Mary did you know... that your baby boy has come to make you new" we are invited to share the life of Christ. New creation walks the way of the cross in love. It involves a radical denial of Adamic patterns of decaying selfishness and destructive exclusion. It celebrates the humanity of the crucified and risen Christ as we embrace one another with respect and love: that is our union with Christ! Christ in us and we in him!



GRACE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH PHILADELPHIA, PA

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Grace Pentecostal Church, established in 2003, is prayerfully seeking a dynamic, Spirit-filled Full Time Senior Pastor to lead a multi-generational congregation of approximately 200 members, a Bible-based church that minister to all who seek God and worship Him in the Spirit and in truth. The congregation, while predominantly Indian-American, is open to all who seek God.

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The Senior Pastor will work together with the church leadership to extend the mission of the church; responsible to lead the church to grow spiritually and to fulfill the Great Commission.

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- At least 35 years of age and married.
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Open to receive applications as early as possible to enable decision making no later than April 2021.

For additional information, contact:

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or visit: www.gpcpa.org



Identity in Christ

THE JEWS ARE STILL WAITING FOR THEIR MESSIAH,
BUT FOR US, JESUS WAS ALREADY BORN AND IS
LIVING IN US.



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



DR. BINU DANIEL
Dusseldorf, Germany



When I visited Israel last year, I noticed orthodox and ultra-orthodox Jews who gathered at the debris of Jerusalem's temple, especially at the Wailing Wall to say their prayers. Non-Jews tourists, who gathered there to see the importance of the place and the temple and its remnants, were found laughing at how those who prayed at the Wailing Wall and the type of dress they wore. But the Jews did neither look around what was happening nor did they pay heed to any comment. They were dedicated and immersed in their activities and prayers. Moreover, they showed much more dedication to fulfill God's word given to their ancestors Abraham, Jacob, and Isaac.

I noticed that they did not look modern, not dressed in a contemporary way, but were gorgeous in their traditional attire, which couldn't be comparable to the dress

code of non-Jews who had gathered there to see the place. They believed that God would answer their prayers someday and bring restoration to them. They are still hopeful even though there are still uncertainties with no signs at all to build their temple at hand, a long-cherished hope. Jewish people do not believe that Jesus Christ, the Savior of humankind, was born, but they are eagerly waiting for their Messiah to come and to restore them. Therefore, they have discarded everything in this world—all worldly comforts that shatters their faith in God—even schooling their children, smartphones, social media, etc., for a common cause that they need restoration and a place of worship.

God commands us to become such staunch believers. The Jews are still waiting for their Messiah, but for us, Jesus was already born and is living in us. So, we should be new transformed people and should have new life the old being gone (2 Corinthians 5:17). When we offer our life for Jesus to come and live in, He will surely come and live in us. He will be our captain. Even if we look awkward and strange, just like the Jews for the worldly people, we are precious for Heaven. As per the faith based on the scriptural truth, those who want to exalt themselves in this world would not be counted as righteous by the Lord, and therefore one should be firm and unwavering in his belief.


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The Two Lives

They say that there's only one life
But for me, it's a lie
My life before Christ and after Christ
I say the worst and the best
The old me
When my life was a wreck
Excessively appropriate for this world
Excessively appropriate to the power of this world to be played with
A messed-up heart and brimming with breaks
With fears in my heart
Also, tears in my eyes
I meandered all around not realizing what is going near
As of now, it's a new me after I am in Christ
Where I'm at peace when my life is in pieces
A Newspaper of Christ when I'm in the test
Loved me to bits, though I was lost
With faith in my heart
Also, hope in my eyes
Yes, this I know: God is for me and I am in Christ



Grace George Kathettu is an Assistant Professor of Agricultural Entomology at Apollo Institute of Agriculture Technology and Research in Hyderabad, India. She holds a 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.



GRACE KATHETTU
Assistant Professor
Apollo Technology and Research
Hyderabad

FROM HISTORY

The Christmas Carol: Silent Night

Born as a third child of his mother and his father fleeing home out of disgrace and having been adopted as the godson by the town's brutal executioner, this child was banned from attending school, learning a trade, or even holding a job, yet he loved to sing. While playing on the steps leading up to Capuchin Monastery, he was heard singing by a Benedictine monk who could not bear to see the voice wasted. Hence, he arranged for the boy to study with his elite group of students. The monk's kindness was not wasted, and the boy proved to be an outstanding student who mastered the organ, violin, and guitar by the time he was twelve. He continued his training and was ordained a priest in 1815.

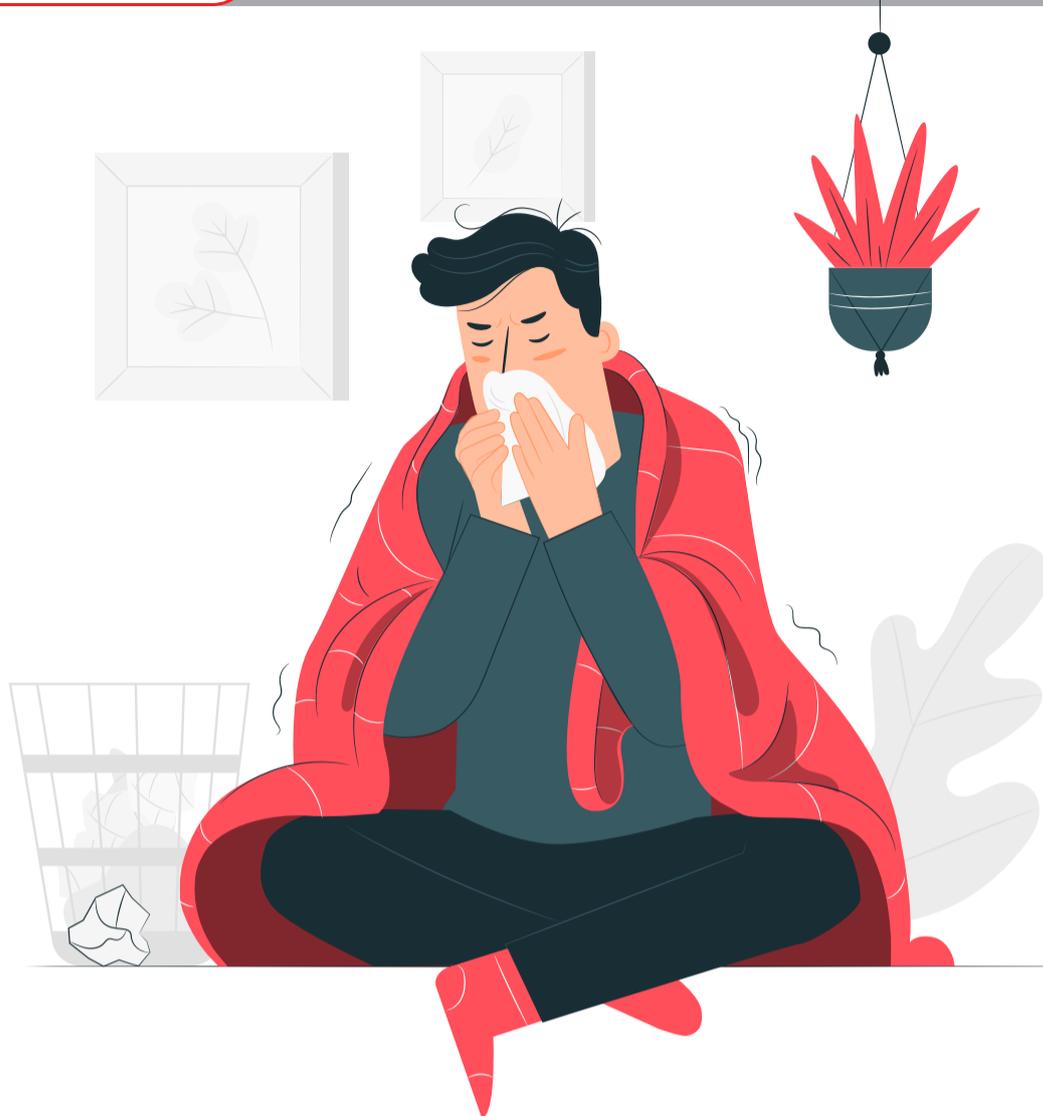
Over the course of his life, he was assigned many duties in the town, and while he was the assistant at Oberndorf, he penned the words to a new Christmas carol and asked the church organist, Franz Gruber, to set them to music. On Christmas Eve of 1818, the two first sang what became the famous Christmas carol: "Silent Night, Holy Night." "Silent Night" captures the incredible humility of a God who stooped not just to the level of humanity but the lowest level--born among animals and announced to ordinary shepherds. In his final posting, he opened a school that took in poor children and gave his entire income for this project, and died as he was born. This was none other than Joseph Mohr.

(Source: www.christianity.com)

THE WRIGHT BROTHERS FLY INTO HISTORY

Have you ever loved flying on an airplane? Well, the Wright brothers flew into history with their first plane on December 17. On the North Carolina coast, Thursday, December 17, 1903, was a cold and windy day. When Orville and Wilbur Wright awoke that morning, they thought it was almost perfect. Three days earlier, after years of trials, they had tried to get their primitive powered 'airplane,' with its 40ft wingspan, into the air. No sooner had Wilbur got it off the ground that the aircraft stalled and plunged back down into the sand. Born in 1867 and 1871 respectively – the sons of an evangelical Christian clergyman – the story goes that they were first smitten by the principle of flight when their father bought them a helicopter toy. The pair opened a bicycle shop, capitalizing on the craze for cycles but all the time tinkering with schemes to get an aircraft into the sky. It was the first of four flights made that day, each longer than the one before. On the fourth trial, Wilbur guided the world's first plane through the air for a distance of 852 feet in 59 seconds. For the first time, humankind had the power of flight. It was a genuinely extraordinary moment.

(Source: www.historyextra.com)



Jacob George pioneered bible translation work in India. He and his family lived among the Konda Dora tribe of Andhra Pradesh. He is the South Asia Director of Every Home for Christ and Chairman Emeritus of Wycliffe India.



JACOB GEORGE
Dallas, USA

COVID AND ME

The grace of god can help us protect our minds from fear.



For seven months, we escaped the COVID. We were cautious whenever we went out of the house and also took measures to build up immunity. So when we decided to go to Canada to visit our son and family, we were not so much worried about COVID. No sooner had we reached Canada, that I started a cough, which became severe within a few days. We went for the COVID test and found that we were positive. With my cough on the increase and the oxygen level going down, medical consultations directed me to the hospital. I was admitted into the Emergency Room and was hooked to oxygen. The next day I was transferred to a private room. It had a few machines and had wires connected to me. In the beginning, I was feeling fine that I was being taken care of in

the best possible way. But then I realized that no one from outside could visit me, not even family members. And I could get no food from home. I had my phone with me, and the hospital gave me a Wi-Fi connection to access WhatsApp and email. The first couple of days, this helped keep me connected with my family. But on the third day, slowly, the thought of being alone started to get to me. When the nurses came to check on me, I made it a point to talk to them. I found that two of them were followers of Jesus and one senior nurse (she is from north India) was very close to God. Talking to them was great joy in that time of being all alone.

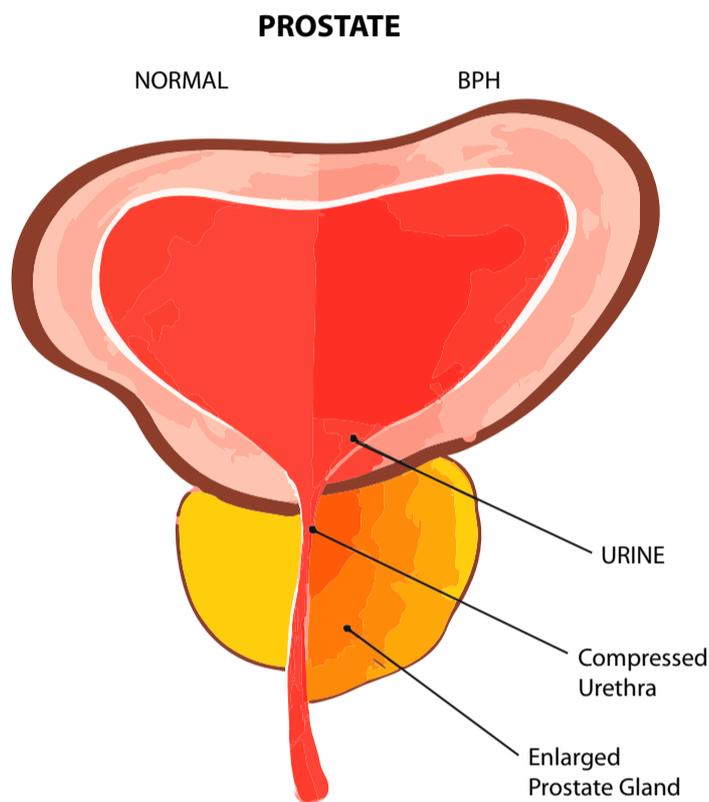
COVID had filled our world with fear of the Coronavirus and the fear of death. This was leading to depression for many and anxiety about the future. But as I was all alone in the hospital room, one thing that God protected me from was fear. Fear did not enter my thoughts. My problem was loneliness. And the other matter that bothered me was the food they served me. I was not able to eat much, and my intake became less day after day. Then I started singing songs loud to keep my spirits up.

Once a day, a doctor visited my room. The doctors typically just looked at my chart and would then

leave. Or it would be just a “Hi” and a “Bye” or just a sentence, “you are improving well.” Each day it was a different doctor. On the fourth day, I was feeling lonelier. As I was sitting in a chair in the room, the doctor on duty walked in. I had not seen him before. He started asking me why I am in Canada, and then he asked me what work I do. Suddenly, I started telling him how the Lord called me when I was a young man. I narrated my journey in the Bible Translation ministry and how I am waiting to see all of India’s remaining languages have God’s Word in their mother tongues. I said that I believe that God will enable me to see that happen. The doctor was listening silently. All of a sudden, he knelt before me, held on to my knees, and prayed that God would fulfill my desire and blessed me. He then got up, opened the door, and walked away. I looked at the time; he was with me for almost 20 minutes. I never saw that doctor again. I believe that he was an angel sent by God to encourage me in my loneliness. I did not feel lonely anymore. I was released from the hospital on the sixth day.

It is so easy for our thoughts to turn to what could happen to us and be filled with fear. And this fear can take control of our minds and lead us to depression. But the grace of God can help us protect our minds from fear. He can send his angels to help us in our times of need. This is what He did for me. This is our God!

KNOW THE PROSTATE



If we are cautious enough to repair our homes or other possessions, how much more care should we give the temple of God?

Dr. Jaisy Sonny, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, is a board-certified Family Nurse Practitioner in the Department of Urology at Veteran Affairs Medical Center, Dallas, Texas. After completing her nursing education in India, she migrated to the USA in 1997. She completed her Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Nursing from the University of Texas at Arlington. She completed her Doctor of Nursing Practice in 2017 from Chamberlain University. Dr. Sonny resides in Rowlett, Texas, with her husband, Sonny George, and three beautiful daughters.



DR. JAISY SONNY
Dallas, USA

Our body is the temple of the living God. It is our responsibility to keep it clean and take care of it. Jesus instructs us that, "The healthy do not need a physician, but the sick do." All the men have a prostate gland, which enlarges as men get older. The prostate gland wraps around the urethra that is the path the urine flows from the bladder to eliminate. When the prostate gland gets bigger, some men may experience a problem with urination. Men, especially in Asian culture, do not freely express the medical issues they face with others. It is essential to know that help is available.

WHAT IS BENIGN PROSTATIC HYPERPLASIA?

Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (BPH) is an enlarged prostate. The prostate is a gland that surrounds the urethra (the channel that carries urine from the bladder out). This gland often gets bigger as men get older. This is nothing to do with prostate cancer, as the word itself says benign and is a widespread condition in almost all men.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF BPH?

Many people with BPH may not have symptoms. When they do occur:

- Having to urinate often, especially at night
- Having to strain or wait to start the urine flow
- A weak urine stream or flow
- Leaking or dribbling urine
- Feels like bladder not empty even after you urinate
- In rare cases, men may present with unable to urinate at all, which is a severe problem and requires medical help right away.

WHAT CAN SOMEONE DO ON THEIR OWN TO FEEL BETTER?

BPH symptoms like getting up at night more to urinate may reduce by cutting down the amount of fluid you drink 3-4 hours before bed; limiting caffeine (any source like coffee, soda, tea...) at least 6 hours before bedtime. Alcohol drinks will act as a diuretic or water pill and make you urinate more often. Allergy and cold medications that contain decongestant or antihistamine can make BPH symptoms worse. Double voiding means after you urinate; you wait for a few minutes to relax and try to urinate again. This may help to empty your bladder some more.

BPH treatment options:

Watchful Waiting: If BPH symptoms not bothering, then no need to start any medications.

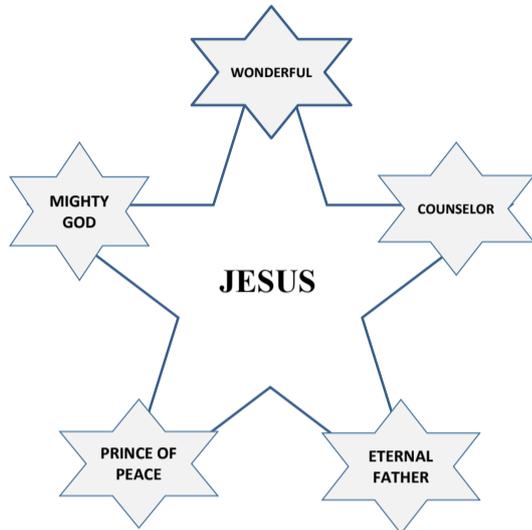
Medicines: There are medications available to relax the urethra and medicines to shrink the prostate or keep the prostate from growing. Please reach out to your healthcare provider for their expert opinion.

Surgery: Surgery options are available. Please seek help from your provider.

Knowing what is happening to our body is important; if we are cautious enough to repair our homes or other possessions, how much more care should we give the temple of God? "Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies." (1 Cor 6: 19-20). Time is precious. Unless you turn on the light, you will still sit in darkness. God has placed healthcare providers in this world to help others. One has to tap into the available resources to be benefited. If any of you are experiencing the above problems, please do not hesitate to contact your healthcare providers.



JESUS OUR SUPER HERO AND THE SUPREME STAR!



Our focus should be more to refer a star figuratively to an outstanding shining person like Jesus.

This is the time of the year where we all get to see brightly shining stars dazzling across the cold wintry night as a part of the seasonal decorations. And often we think on 'WHAT' this special physical star is all about - the heavenly sign declaring the birth of Jesus. Because none was so important that their arrival was marked with a star except for the birth of Jesus, so, it's all about Him – who is our real Superhero, and the Supreme star, sent by God to be the savior of humankind.

So, friends, our focus should be more to refer to a star figuratively to an outstanding shining person like Jesus. That means we should give more importance to 'WHO' rather than 'WHAT'. Numbers 24:17 refers to a star coming forth from Jacob, which in the New Testament we confirm Him to be JESUS!

His name means Savior, and we find the most beautiful descriptions of this supreme personality in Isaiah 9:6 (Memorize). Each of the descriptions deals with an important area of our lives. They are like the five corner points of the star, each is special and unusual.

1. First, He is WONDERFUL. He takes care of the dullness and darkness of life caused by sin. Through His sacrifice on the cross, Jesus Christ grants us a wonderful new life free from the penalty of sin for everyone who believes in Him. Instantly we become a new creation in Christ – a child of God who will live with Him for all eternity. (2 Corinthians 5:17-19- Memorize).
2. Second, He is a COUNSELOR. He takes care of the decisions of life. He likes to give us counsel and direction with regards to plans for our lives.
3. Third, He is the MIGHTY GOD. He takes care of the demands of life. He will give you the strength to live the life He has called you to live.
4. Fourth, He is our EVERLASTING FATHER. He takes care of the destiny of life. He will always love and care for you.
5. Fifth, He is the PRINCE OF PEACE. He takes care of the disturbances of life. When we believe in Jesus we receive forgiveness for all our sins and have peace

with God. He also provides perfect peace amid our troubles.

There are yet more amazing descriptions about our Superhero figure, Jesus in the Scriptures. The more you explore about Him, the more your life will be blessed. So never stop!

And do share your blessed experiences in Jesus Christ with others.

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



ELIZABETH MATHEW
Muscat, Oman

HOUSE FOR SALE BY OWNER



It's a duplex property total area of 3854 sq.ft plus porch area of 217 sq.ft located 4.8 km from Kochi International Airport, and 600meters from NH 544(Aluva-Angamaly Highway). The house comprises of first-floor area of 1927 sq.ft and second-floor area of 1927 sq.ft. With 6 bedrooms (3 plus 3) and 6 bathrooms (3 plus 3) and 4 dress rooms, kitchen, work area, dining hall, living room. Have a all-season well. The house is built on 10.5 cents of land. Additionally, the house location has a land of 40 cents attached to it, which can be sold separately.

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New variant of coronavirus

England has notified the World Health Organization of a new variant of coronavirus that has been found to be growing faster in some parts of the country. Though it has been reported that there is nothing to suggest the new variant caused worse disease of that vaccines would no longer work, this may be associated with the faster spread of virus infections in the south-east of England. The mutations involve the spike protein of the virus, and this is that part that helps the virus to infect the cells. There is a huge effort underway to characterize the variant and to understand its emergence. Hence, it is advised to keep a rational perspective about the strain since this is normal virus evolution, and new variants are expected to come and go and emerge over time.

UK AND EU CONTINUE BREXIT TRADE TALKS

Britain and the European Union continued trade talks, although it is teetering on the brink of a no-deal Brexit departure. Britain left E.U. on January 31 but allowed many things, including international trade, to remain the same for the following 11 months. The two sides are not able to reach a decision over fishing rights, fair competition, and how to resolve future disputes. U.K. and E.U. negotiators are continuing their talks at E.U. headquarters with less than three weeks to go until the U.K. leaves the 27-nation bloc. If an agreement cannot be reached by the end of this year, then E.U. offered to maintain the train, airline, and freight operations with Britain for six months. New Year's Day will bring big changes even if no deal is reached since no longer will goods and people be able to move between the U.K. and its neighbors as it was when Britain was part of the E.U.



CYCLONE YASA COMING FIJI'S WAY

Cyclone Yasa was upgraded to a Category 5 storm early on Wednesday after it sustained winds of 160 miles per hour. Fiji's Meteorological Service forecasted that it is likely to make landfall on Thursday or Friday with flash floods in all low-lying areas and strong winds across the entire archipelago nation. Fiji shut down all schools, postponed senior students' exams, and encouraged everyone to board up their homes, keep ready emergency kits, and be prepared to leave their houses for evacuation centers. It is estimated that 600,000 people are directly in the path of the storm.



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Hunger spikes in America

Demand is on the rise in food banks, even in some of America's wealthier regions. The data from the Census Bureau mentioned that more Americans are going hungry now than at any point during the COVID-19 pandemic. A recent survey shows that one in eight Americans reported they sometimes or often did not have enough food in November. Food insecurity has doubled since last year, exacerbated by the pandemic. In some of the more affluent counties of the U.S., before COVID-19, it was the elderly and underemployed that were the majority clients of the food banks, but recently there is an influx of service workers disproportionately hit by the pandemic. Food banks and pantries have already provided food for millions of Americans.

CHRISTMAS SEASON'S UNPRECEDENTED

Christmas décor is selling out faster than usual as Americans look to fill the cold winter pandemic days with more lights, trees, and ornaments. Retailers typically plan according to the sales from the previous year based on economic forecasts and other indicators to stock the stores, but this year the demand surpassed their estimates. Christmas tree farmers say that this season is unprecedented, with many people wanting to start a new tradition or get a real tree for the first time. The tree sales are seeing a 20 percent increase.



President Trump signed an executive order which makes Christmas Eve an official federal holiday this year.

Former Presidents have given federal workers a half-day in the past, but this is the first time a fully-paid day off is given to employees.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel announced on Sunday that Germans would be forced into a strict lockdown ahead of Christmas due to the increase in coronavirus deaths. Starting Wednesday, December 16, nonessential stores and schools will be closed, and companies are encouraged to offer employees extended holidays or allow them to work from home.

EU ANNOUNCES NEW RULES FOR BIG TECH

Tech giants could face hefty fines and stricter controls as part of new sweeping rules in the European Union. The region had concerns for a long on how powerful some companies have become and how it has become a problem for smaller firms to compete in the market. One of the recommended changes is putting an end to self-preferencing so that search results on a firm's app or browser will display content and products of other developers, thereby leveling the playing field. With the new rules, Big Tech firms such as Apple and Google will have to allow users to uninstall apps that initially came with their devices. Failure to comply with the new rules will cause fines as high as 10 percent of the companies' annual European turnover. E.U. aims to enforce remedies to bring functional changes, and the remedy includes forcing companies to disinvest if they systematically breach the new rules.

FDA APPROVES VACCINE FOR CORONAVIRUS

COVID-19 vaccine rollout was a moment of hope amidst the pandemic's darkest days where the U.S. death toll breached 300,000. FDA cleared the two-shot vaccine developed by Pfizer and German firm BioNTech on December 8. The FDA's career scientists confirmed Pfizer's assessment that the vaccine was 95 percent effective at preventing disease with tolerable short-term side effects, which include fatigue, headaches, and muscle pain that gets resolved within two days. The vaccine is administered in two doses, three weeks apart, and was found to protect people after the first dose itself.

On December 15, the FDA review cleared the path for a new vaccine developed by Moderna. It was confirmed to be 94 percent effective in a clinical trial with no serious safety concerns after a detailed review by scientists of the Food and Drug Administration. FDA most likely will authorize this vaccine as early as Friday.



Boko Haram claims abduction in Nigeria



In Nigeria, more than 330 schoolboys went missing after gunmen with assault rifles attacked their Government Science Secondary School in Kankara, Katsina state on Friday night. On Tuesday, Boko Haram terrorists claimed responsibility for

the abduction through an unverified audio message. A presidential spokesman informed that the Nigerian government is negotiating with the attackers. Aminu Masari, Governor of Katsina, said that security agencies deployed for rescue operations had located the abductors' positions. The Islamic extremist group had carried out mass abductions before, with the most serious being the one in April 2014, when more than 270 schoolgirls were captured from the Government Secondary School in Chibok, Borno state; about 100 of those girls are still missing.

Israel and Morocco establish normal ties



The U.S. President Trump's push for Arab-Israeli peace continued and resulted in Morocco becoming the fourth Arab nation in a span of four months to establish diplomatic ties with Israel. Morocco follows the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Sudan in bringing diplomatic relations with Israel in the

Middle East and Northern Africa. As part of the deal, the United States agreed to recognize Morocco's claim over the Western Sahara region. This region is disputed and a former Spanish North African territory. According to the agreement, both countries will open liaison offices with the goal of opening embassies eventually. The U.S. officials said that they are pushing for a deal with Saudi Arabia.