

Mission Updates

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ETERNAL LIFE THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERS!



Eternal Life was a favorite topic for Jesus. Jesus often spoke about eternal life to cheer up his disciples, to put the right perspective on the temporary abode in the world and everything that is in it. In John 14: 1-4 we read Jesus comforting his disciples, saying that there are many rooms in his father's house, and each one of them will get a personal invitation to reign with him in eternity. The Christian life is not without suffering, in fact, the bible says the righteous may fall many times, but with the Lord's help, the righteous will get up every time. As Moses says, the days of our years are seventy or eighty; the life of mortals is like grass, which, when the wind blows over, is gone, and its place remembers it no more. What matters is where we're heading after this temporary life on this earth. When trials and tribulations come, do we think about eternity? Do we view our situations through the eyes of eternity?

In Matthew 22, Jesus talks about three groups of people who will not make it to heaven to reign with him. As I discuss this parable of the wedding banquet, my earnest prayer is that none of you who are reading this article will fall into the three categories who will not make it to heaven. The first category of people, I call them Preoccupied People (22:5). These are folks who got the invitation for the great banquet with Jesus but ignored it because they were too busy. They did not have time for church, fellowship meetings, reading the bible, or praying because they were always busy storing up treasures on earth. Unfortunately for them, none of the treasures that they gave their life for were transferable to heaven, and they showed up naked and empty to miss the great banquet in heaven. How strong is our bank balance in heaven? What are we doing to store up treasures in heaven where moths, rust, and thieves cannot take them away?

The second category of people rejected the Gospel because of arrogance and pride. I call them Persecuting People (22:6). The Lord will not be kind to them and will punish them while they are on earth itself. Persecuting the Lord's children is a sure way of getting punished by God (22:7). The above two categories

are obvious, and they will not make it to heaven, but Jesus talks about a third category which may shock many. According to Jesus, the good and the forgiven bad will make it to heaven, but the one who shows up to the great banquet of the Lord, without the wedding dress will meet the same plight as the first two groups, i.e., thrown into darkness bound.

What does dressing up for an event represent? Beyond the urge to look good, it mainly represents our respect for the host and the occasion. The grander the occasion and more respectful the host, the better we dress. The king was offended that this man showed up to the banquet without putting in any effort, thus disrespecting the host, and I call such people Passive Christians (22:12). It may be shocking for many to read that passive Christians will not make it to heaven. How do we grade our Christian Life? The Lord's expectation is that we bear fruits, if not, the master will cut the tree away. Do we have an urgency to bear fruit?

In Jesus's own words, becoming a disciple of Jesus involves three things (Matthew 16:24): Deny oneself, carry one's cross, and follow Jesus. As David said, he will not offer anything to God that doesn't cost him. Denying oneself involves a cost; simply put, we are not expected to give our leftovers to God, as Cain did, but to give our best to God as Abel did. Jesus carried the cross not for himself but for others, similarly, what are we suffering for others? We are accountable for the people that the Lord has placed around us. Inally, one can only follow something if we have the thing in sight,

i.e., only if we spend time in the presence of the Lord, reading his word and speaking to him, will we be able to follow him effectively. I pray the Lord will recharge us and get us out of our passivity and help us focus on what really matters - destination heaven!

YEEE
Worldwide

YOUTH EMPOWER, EVANGELIZE AND EQUIP

Jesus healed before he preached, and his heart moved with compassion before he healed. Today's youth need more compassion than ever. They need role models that can love and challenge them and set them on a sound path. The vision of Y-Triple-E Worldwide is to Empower the youth by exposing them to the best wisdom of the world and God, teaching them and imparting burden for Evangelism, and Equipping them to become influencers and proud ambassadors in the Kingdom of God.



Dr. Giby Raphael, Associate Pastor
Faithcity Church, Kochi & CEO,
Remote X Corporation, USA



Drug use in the Northeastern states

The menace of drug addiction has spread fast among the youths of Northeast India; unfortunately, it is more than 20 percent higher than in other states of India. The prime reason is this region is located near the Golden Triangle (comprising Thailand, Myanmar and Laos, one of Asia's largest drug trade routes). Drug addiction refers to the condition of being addicted to a particular drug, particularly narcotic drugs. These are generally illegal drugs that affect the mood and behaviour of a person. The addicted people are on the way to a steady and sure death, affecting individuals, families and society. According to a study conducted by the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC), of the eight Northeastern states, namely Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland, the last four share a common international border with Myanmar, the world's second-largest illicit opium-producing country. The havoc played by HIV in some of the Northeastern states over the last two-and-a-half decades led to several discussions on drug use, especially with injecting drugs in the Northeast have taken HIV into account. Equally worrying is increasing evidence that the non-injecting sexual partners of injecting drug users are becoming infected with HIV.



Therefore, it is necessary to initiate to community-based study on drug use in the sub-region, including (a) central and state government initiatives, (b) the conducting of studies and surveys by the medical, academic and research institutions, and (c) initiatives from local churches and NGOs. The element common to all these responses should be carried out with the active participation of local NGOs and CBOs, the formation of which in many cases, catalysed by an ex- and current drug user. Secondly, the organisations should be formed by the ex- and current drug users and those women infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS to work as a force for social change. Through them, the entitlement of HIV-positive people to HIV/ AIDS care and support and the needs of the families and communities affected by HIV/ AIDS in the sub-region have come to the fore. The UNODC has made several recommendations, and programmatic directions for future interventions on this menace could be considered.

Dr. P J . George, Director, Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences, Prayagraj, UP

Faithcity Kings Caravan Project In Northeast India



Observing the drug addiction epidemic in Northeastern States of India, we have decided to replicate the successful model of Kings caravan project from Faithcity church in Northeastern states. We have initiated a pilot project in Arunachal Pradesh with plans to expand to all states in Northeast. The “Say No to Drugs” campaign will include skits, music, testimonies, seminars on drug awareness and youth meetings.



Bro. Shalvin James & Bro. Issac Paul will be the project coordinators.

YWAM (Youth With A Mission India)

Evangelism, Training and Mercy Ministry

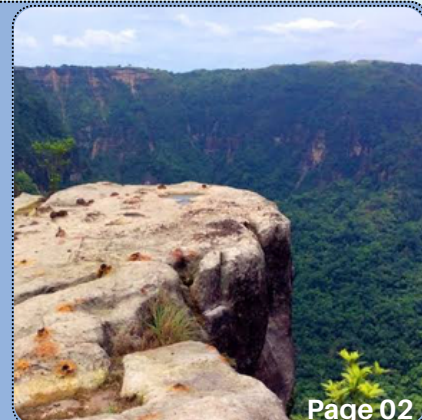
A group of nine youngsters from the organization YWAM recently participated in a gospel campaign at Chidekgre, Williamnagar, Meghalaya. They camped in Faithcity A.chik revival church, Willamnagar. They preached the Gospel to the villagers, did house visits, preached in public markets, conducted open-air meetings, taught songs, skits, and stories in local schools, and did social work like cleaning the street, etc. Pastor Pripston N Sangma and family and Pastor Sijo M G of Faithcity A.chik Mission hosted the group. Their ministry in Garo Hills was a blessing for the people.



Pr. Sijo. M G. Mission Coordinator, Faithcity A.chik Mission, Garo Hills

Balpakram National Park

This National park is located at an altitude of 910 M, in South Garo Hills in Meghalaya state, close to the international border with Bangladesh. This park was inaugurated in December 1987, and it provides habitat for barking deer, Asian golden cat, Bengal tiger, marbled cat, wild water buffalo, red panda, and Indian elephant. The meaning of Balpakram means the “Land of the eternal wind” according to the myth of the Garo People.



Editorial Team

"Pastor Uncle to Daddy"

Being raised in an episcopal Christian family, knowing God, and understanding the importance of the word of God was part of my daily routine. However, with the passage of time, with the exposure to the wider world and different people, there was a dilemma associated with the faith and the future life.

It was one of those days, I happened to notice my elder sister watching a prayer meeting conducted by Pastor P R Baby on YouTube and drew my attention on few topics he preached about. This became a practice at our home in Bangalore, listening to all the messages by Pastor. We even attended a Sunday meeting at Faith City Church and was spellbound by the way God was talking to me through his messages and was convinced that God wants me to be part of building His kingdom. During one of his messages, Holy Spirit urged me to take water baptism and he explained the profoundness of baptism in life on earth and eternity. Later, during one of those deliverance meetings aired online, Pastor mentioned that if you are contemplating taking water baptism and not sure when or where, there will be baptism service in Faith City Church, Cochin before the watch night service on 31st Dec 2019. It was a reassurance for me to confirm my decision and gave a phone call to Pastor. He accepted my interest with open arms and authenticated that I understand Bible and the importance of baptism. I was overwhelmed by his warmth and sense the fragrance of the love of Christ as he articulated everything pertaining to it. God blessed me to take water baptism by Pastor on 31st Dec 2019 and draw myself closer to God by obeying his command.

During that time, I was planning to migrate to any western countries for work. After writing the IELTS exam, I attended a Sunday service at FCC and shared this with Pastor. He suggested me to pray fervently for miraculous things from God as we serve a supernatural God.

He can do far more than we could ever ask for or imagine and advised me to do fasting and read from scripture as part of my immigration. By the grace of God, I could pass my IELTS exam and received my Permanent Resident for Canada within few months, much to everyone's amazement. This wouldn't have been possible without the help of Almighty. Although, I had received my Canada PR in Jan 2020, I delayed my travel to May 2020 as I had enough time to land before the visa expiry. I was working with a US based MNC in Bangalore. They seldom hire people for Canada due to certain complexities. I submitted my resignation, began searching for jobs in Canada and happened to discuss the same with Pastor. He suggested me to meditate from the book of Exodus and Joshua like a capsule and told me "God will open doors for you that you will be amazed". I started reading this along with my family and to my surprise,

my company's higher management asked me if I would like to continue with the same organization but in Canada as a home-based employee with US team remotely. I again knew what worked for me. It's His grace through His promises. When shared this news with Pastor, he told me you will see more amazing things from God if you obey God's commands.

With a grateful heart I started my preparations to travel to Canada and that's when COVID-19 struck the world and the government had imposed travel ban across countries. I couldn't make it to Canada before the stipulated time. Resigning from the job in India, expecting to start working from Canada, I was perturbed with all the uncertainties. Upon sharing the same with Pastor, he told me to read Psalms 27 and take courage from God and talk to your management about the issue. Again, by the gracious hand of God, management assured me I can continue working with the Indian team till I make it to Canada and the North American team will wait for me until I get all my issues resolved. By the time travel restrictions lifted, My Visa got expired. But immigration informed that I would get a new visa but there was no clarity on duration or the formalities as it's an unprecedented situation. This waiting period did make me anxious. During one of my calls with pastor (October), he said "this is a global Issue and nothing to be worried about, it's just the matter of time". Since Pastor spoke to me with all the care and compassion, I took the freedom to tell him, "But remember you told me, I would see God's amazing works in my life". He apparently chuckled, took a pause, and gave me his capsule, to read Deuteronomy each chapter 10 times a day and fast for 21 evenings, and prophesied that your renewed visa will be received before 31st Dec 2020. I started reading, fasting, and waited for God to work in favor of me. I did not share this with anyone. On 31st, Dec 2020 evening, we as a family were getting ready to attend the watchnight online service by Pastor and I checked my email and noticed that I have received the new visa and travel approval from Canada Immigration as Pastor had prayed and told me that I would be receiving the same before that day. We thanked God for His work in my life. I shared this good news with him, and he was equally happy for me and told me you will see more wonders from God in your life quoting-"God will go before you and arrange everything for you" (Deuteronomy 1:30), also gave me instructions for a safe travel. As I hurriedly arranged everything to travel in a short time, my organization arranged my job transfer to Canada and sent my office equipment even before I set my foot in Toronto on 12th Jan 2021. They also gave me the discretion to decide the Canada employment start date. I had a very comfortable travel and shifted myself to a hotel in Toronto for 14 days quarantine as per Canadian govt policy. There I started working from 14th Jan 2021, all praise to almighty God.

I had missed one promotion which I was supposed to get while I was in India due to all the uncertainties in my travel. During one of my calls with Pastor, he mentioned to me to ensure you climb the career ladder up and reach a good position. I told him about this missed opportunity, he guided me to pray and have a word with my US manager about this. My manager suggested me to apply for a next level position as it's not the promotion time per company policy. When I told the same to Pastor, he told me to appear for the same and He will pray for me during this scheduled interview time. God enabled me to clear this interview like a cakewalk and had been promoted to senior level, just in 5 months after landing in Canada. Pastor told me if you stay in faith and work for His kingdom, you will see more amazing things in your life. God blessed me in multiple ways and Pastor was my go-to person for each crucial decisions I have taken in the last 4 years of my life. As Pastor reminded me before my travel, God did go ahead of me clearing and paving the road. When he spoke to me few days before he left to be with God, he reminded me our life is nothing if you don't work for God's kingdom, time is very short, do not waste any opportunity to share the gospel. Of course, I miss him now and a bit more whenever I take any major decisions in my life, however, always remember his capsule - word of God, fasting and praying. It's nothing less than the supernatural work of God that I got the privilege to address him from Pastor P R Baby Uncle to "Daddy" as I am married to Giju, his second son, a divine union of two, answer of a long-time prayer of two families. It's indeed a great blessing to have Giju as my husband, a man of prayer with all the qualities I was praying for in my life partner, who was raised by my spiritual father and a prayerful mother. He hath made everything beautiful in His time and we are very happy to serve this Lord.



Betsy Benson David

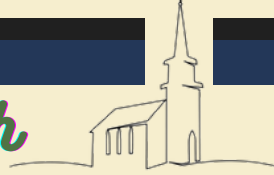
Clinical Statistical Programmer / Clinical Data Manager, Thermo Fisher Scientific, Toronto, Canada



But for this Book we could not know right from wrong. I believe the Bible is the best gift God has ever given to man."

Abraham Lincoln

I Owe my Church



My journey with Faithcity Church began when I was just seven years old. It was on the back of my dad's motorcycle that we made our way to Faithcity Church, rain or shine, every Sunday. It soon became my second home, and Pastor P.R. Baby became not just my spiritual guide but also a life advisor during times of challenge.

As an average student, I harbored a dream of becoming a mechanical engineer after completing grade 12. When I shared this aspiration with Baby Pastor, he wholeheartedly encouraged me to pursue a career in mechanical engineering. However, my school teacher expressed doubts about my choice. Despite the uncertainty, I kept praying and, by God's grace, earned my Bachelor's degree. The desire for a master's degree led me to an Australian university with a scholarship.

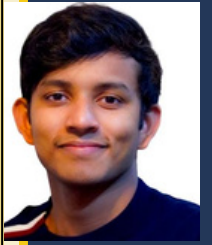
The day before I left Australia, Pastor assured me that God would be with me, just as He had been with Joseph. Over the subsequent four years in Australia, Pastor's words rang true. I faced numerous ups and downs, but Jesus stood by my side through every phase of life. It reminds me of Psalms 118:22, "The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone." God's blessings transformed me from an average student into a graduate with distinction.

Despite my academic success, securing my first job proved to be a challenging journey. While my friends landed jobs and celebrated their success, I experienced a series of rejections after applying to over 300 companies. Some friends suggested to change my faith, but I remained steadfast in my belief in a God who loves me unconditionally and provides what's best for me. I turned to prayer.

One day, God spoke to me through a bible verse: Ecclesiastes 3:1, "For everything there is a season." This verse moved me to tears, and I prayed earnestly. In a dream, I found myself hungry, asking a man for fast food, but he told me that he was preparing a delicious meal for me, urging me to wait. God was telling me to wait patiently for His perfect timing. It was during this time that I had conversation with Pastor Giby Raphael. He prayed and told me that God was preparing the best job for me; I needed only to wait.

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Dany Owen
University of Wollongong
Australia

The waiting period was far from easy. On one side, my relatives and friends continuously inquired about my job search, while on the other hand, rejections from companies piled up. I waited for more than 1.5 years, feeling stuck as my friends started their careers. After enduring this long wait, I successfully cleared all interview stages for a company, but I didn't receive the offer letter. Once again, I found myself in a waiting room in my life.

Then, on 20 August 2023, Sunday, Dr. Giby Raphael, Associate Pastor prophesied in church, saying, "Today, some papers will be signed for you." Surprisingly, the very next day, I received the long-awaited offer letter, breaking the 1.5-year waiting period. God had indeed blessed me with an excellent job that exceeded all my expectations.

Throughout my journey, I've encountered moments of unfaithfulness to God, yet His faithful love has always remained. I want to share one important lesson: when God gives you a promise and asks you to wait, have faith in His word and patiently await His perfect timing. He will fulfill His promises, even if you forget them. His faithfulness endures forever. All glory and praise to Jesus.

Project Gilead

Transforming Lives
Through Healing



Dr. Ameer Thomas
Resident Physician, Portland,
Oregon, USA

From a young age, I was sure that I wanted to become a medical doctor when I grew up. More than the influence of my mother, who was the head nurse in a hospital in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, I was drawn to the helplessness of the patients and the miracle of modern medicine that could give them hope and save lives. I experience this miracle every day at the Hospital in Portland, Oregon, U.S.A, where I practice medicine as the resident physician, and I feel forever fortunate to be in a job that can directly and tangibly save people's lives. In addition to the worldly medicine that can heal temporarily, the best part of it all is giving them hope beyond this life on earth - for eternity. I am compelled to take these talents that the Lord has entrusted to all of us in the medical profession and multiply them 100-fold to save lives and help the needy. The vision of Project Gilead is to build an organization to transform lives through healing, especially for the people in unreached areas of India. The mission includes conducting medical camps and providing training on health and wellbeing across India. I request all medical professionals to join me in accomplishing this vision.

Please email me at amee.s.thomas@gmail.com to register interest, and we will get back to you with participation opportunities.