



Ownership vs. Stewardship

The biblical approach to managing what we call ours

Growing up during the resurgence of pop music via icons like Britney Spears, *NSYNC, and the Backstreet Boys, music was omnipresent on college campuses. Musicians, particularly those who played instruments, were revered among my peers. One such friend of mine gained stardom for brandishing a rare edition of a “Les Paul” guitar, valued at several lakhs at the time. Months later, the guitar vanished. Upon investigation, we discovered that my friend never owned the guitar; he had been using it without permission from its rightful owner who had left it at his house temporarily. From the outside, ownership and stewardship may be indistinguishable, but in practice, they diverge greatly in focus, rights, and responsibility.

The definitions are clear: ownership is the legal right to possess, use, and control, whereas stewardship involves the responsible management and care of a resource or asset. However, in practice and attitude, ownership allows an individual to use an asset as they wish, focusing on personal or organizational gain. In contrast, stewardship involves the primary responsibility to manage resources sustainably, often enhancing value for the true owner rather than for oneself.

Jesus illustrates the critical difference between these concepts in the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30). He entrusts his servants with bags of gold, expecting them to act as stewards by investing and multiplying it.

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Dr. Giby Raphael
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"United for a Greater Vision"

In a world where economic disparities continue to grow, collaboration is the key to creating lasting change. United for a Greater Vision is more than just a slogan - it is a commitment to working together with like-minded organizations to elevate a million lives. By joining forces, we can pool resources, expertise, and innovative solutions to empower individuals and communities. Our shared dream is to provide sustainable opportunities for those in need, ensuring that every person has access to a decent income and a dignified life.

Through strategic partnerships, skill development programs, and economic initiatives, we aim to transform lives by fostering financial independence. Whether through vocational training, entrepreneurship support, or access to fair-paying jobs, our collective efforts will pave the way for a stronger, self-sufficient community. We believe that true progress happens when organizations, businesses, and individuals unite with a common purpose - to break the cycle of poverty and create a future where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

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Priscilla Centre: Empowering Women for Economic Independence



Founded on May 4, 1997, Priscilla Centre has become a platform for thousands of women across Northeast India, providing opportunities to learn, upskill, and achieve economic independence. Established by Lucy Engjadim, this non-profit organization was born out of a vision to uplift women facing social exclusion and related struggles. What began in a small church vestry with just a few women and limited resources has grown into a transformative movement.

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“The Power of SWOT Analysis

Swot Analysis On Prominent Biblical Characters

Adam and Eve

In the January edition of the Mission update, we explored the concept of SWOT analysis. Applying this method to prominent biblical figures provides deeper insights into their strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. We begin with Adam and Eve.

Strengths of Adam and Eve

1. Adam's Authority and Ability

Genesis 1:27-28 states:

"So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth." God granted Adam dominion over all living creatures, entrusting him with the responsibility of managing the earth. This divine authority endowed Adam with immense strength and capacity, allowing him to govern the natural world effectively. Before the fall, Adam possessed an extraordinary ability to work without experiencing fatigue, a unique characteristic of his original state of being.

2. Adam's Intelligence and Memory

Genesis 2:19 describes Adam's intellectual prowess:

"And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air, and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof."

Adam demonstrated remarkable intelligence by naming every bird and beast. His ability to assign names to each creature reflects an unparalleled level of cognitive ability and memory. His intellect was vast and perfect, allowing him to process and manage vast amounts of information effortlessly.

3. Adam's Management and Stewardship

Genesis 2:15 states:

"And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the Garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it."

Beyond dominion over the earth, Adam was tasked with tending and guarding the Garden of Eden. The garden, described as encompassing four rivers (Pison, Gihon, Hiddekel, and Euphrates), was vast. Adam's ability to dress and maintain such a large area highlights his organizational and stewardship skills. His responsibility extended beyond mere caretaking—he was also charged with protecting the garden from potential threats. His abilities, though appearing supernatural to us, were inherent and natural to him.

4. The Power of Partnership: Adam and Eve

Genesis 2:18 (NIV) emphasizes the significance of companionship:

"The Lord God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.'"

Eve's creation illustrates the importance of relationships and partnership. God recognized that Adam needed a companion, highlighting that humans thrive in connection with others. Eve was designed to complement Adam, forming a unified team that could work together effectively. The principle of synergy applies here—just as two horses can pull exponentially more weight together than one alone, Adam and Eve were designed to accomplish more together than separately. Their partnership serves as a foundational lesson on the necessity of relationships, both personal and professional.

Dr. P J George
Former Director,
Sam Higginbottom University
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and Sciences
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Key Takeaway:

Recognize the importance of meaningful relationships and partnerships in all aspects of life. Strive to cultivate positive connections that contribute to personal growth and success. Beyond seeking beneficial relationships, actively participate in being a supportive and uplifting partner, friend, and role model.

This SWOT analysis of Adam and Eve provides valuable insights into leadership, stewardship, intelligence, and the power of collaboration—principles that remain relevant in our lives today.

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Elevate a Million 2033 is a landmark initiative by the P. R. Baby Foundation designed to empower rural communities by creating sustainable job opportunities and boosting incomes through innovative, market-driven agricultural solutions. This transformative project aims to enhance rural livelihoods by modernizing farming techniques, optimizing agricultural marketing, and strengthening value chain processes.

To achieve a greater goal, the P. R. Baby Foundation initiated a dialogue with various agencies engaged in community development across the Northeastern states and other parts of India. We have received highly positive responses from the organizations we have engaged with and remain committed to making a meaningful impact on eligible rural communities in India.



John Alex, Joint Director of Agriculture (Rtd) & Director, P R Baby Foundation. Kochi

Ownership vs. Stewardship

The servants entrusted with five and two bags of gold succeeded, but the one given a single bag did not. His failure stemmed not only from his actions but also from his attitude, which was hypocritical and despised by Jesus. He understood the difference between an owner and a steward and acknowledged that the master was the rightful owner, described as "hard" and "severe," who had full authority over his assets. He also recognized that the money was not his to keep and that his role was to manage it. However, he chose to act according to his desires, treating the master's wealth as his own rather than working to increase it. Despite claiming to embrace stewardship, he behaved like an owner. His master condemned him as wicked, not just lazy, emphasizing the conflict between his words and his actions. **When we use what is entrusted to us as we please, we assume the role of an owner rather than a steward.**

This parable prompts us to consider if we truly own anything on Earth. The answer is no—we are stewards, not owners. This includes our time, wealth, and resources. Our true ownership lies in heaven, where treasures are secure from decay and theft (Matthew 6:19-21), and the assets are marked out for us, with our name on it. Until then, we don't have the liberty to do whatever we want with what we have, but instead, as stewards, we are expected to enhance, if not multiply, the value of everything God has entrusted to us. For the sake of his kingdom, we are expected to put the time, wealth, and influence given to us to work. Interestingly, the master never cared about the cost, i.e., he never asked what it took to multiply the assets. He did not compute the profit (which includes the cost) but was focused on growth (i.e., result). As faithful stewards, it may appear that our efforts to multiply may cost more than the asset's seeming and immediate value, but the expectation to enhance remains.

Ultimately, stewardship may require sacrificing potential profits for the greater purpose of expanding God's kingdom. The true treasures, those immune to decay and theft, await us in heaven, underscoring that on Earth, we own nothing; we are merely stewards. I pray that we will fulfill the expectation to enhance what is given to us for the benefit of the true Owner.

Dr. Giby Raphael, Associate Pastor, Faithcity Church, Kochi & CEO, Revobots LLC, USA www.revobots.ai

Priscilla Centre

Today, Priscilla Centre operates across five Northeastern states- Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, and Assam - empowering women through skill development and economic initiatives. With a strong network of partnerships in over 18 communities, the Centre continues its mission of fostering self-reliance and creating pathways for a brighter, more inclusive future.



Dr. Beena Anna Kurien
Community Health Facilitator. P R Baby Foundation. Dehradun.

Lighting the Path of Learning for the Garo Hills



Moradam English Medium School (MEMS)



The Moradam English Medium School, South Garo Hills, Meghalaya, commenced its new academic year for 2025 on 10th February with an interactive parents' meeting. The meeting provided an opportunity for parents and teachers to discuss academic plans, expectations, and student development for the year ahead. Classes are expected to run smoothly by the end of this month.

Inspiring Growth: A New School Emerges in Rongrengpal Village



Following the remarkable success of Moradam English Medium School, a new educational institution has been established in Rongrengpal Village Knowledge Centre. This initiative aims to expand access to quality education for local students, fostering a brighter future for the community. The positive impact of Moradam English Medium School has set a strong foundation, inspiring this new endeavor to further uplift education standards in the region.

Pr. Hardingson A Sangma
Director, Moradam English Medium School
South Garo Hills. Meghalaya



"Village Knowledge Centre Expands to Welcome Growing Community and Students"



The Village Knowledge Centre in Moradam, South Garo Hills, is expanding its space to accommodate more people.

"Building a Brighter Future: Gasa English Medium School's Journey of Growth and Excellence!"



It is truly inspiring to witness the expansion of Gasa English Medium School. Over the past few years, the school faced significant challenges due to space constraints and the need for improved facilities. However, it is now gradually overcoming these hurdles and gaining momentum in creating a more conducive learning environment. With better infrastructure and resources, students will have enhanced opportunities to excel academically and develop holistically. This positive transformation will undoubtedly foster a more enriching educational experience, helping students unlock their full potential.

www.gemsmeghalaya.com  [gemsmeghalaya](https://www.instagram.com/gemsmeghalaya)

Tracie N Marak, Principal,
Gasa English Medium School,
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THE TEAM - "Fulfilling a Vision, Transforming Lives"



P. R. Baby Foundation continues to empower communities in Meghalaya, turning dreams into lasting change.

Bil Conference - Assam



The Bil Conference was organized by the P. R. Baby Foundation at Jisu Kristo Muktidata Mondoli, Balejuri, Kamrup, Assam, from January 25th to 26th, 2025. The conference aimed to empower community leaders by encouraging them to embrace progressive mindsets and adopt positive changes that contribute to the overall development of their communities. It served as a pivotal platform for fostering innovation, accountability, and values-driven leadership in the Garo Hills villages.



By equipping leaders with knowledge, inspiration, and practical strategies, this initiative has laid a strong foundation for long-term community growth and transformation.

Chinmaya Mallick, Community Builder, P R baby Foundation. Boko, Assam

It is truly inspiring to witness the P. R. Baby Foundation's growing impact on community development in Meghalaya. What began as a humble initiative in 2021 has now evolved into a transformative force, delivering remarkable results across various sectors. The foundation has expanded its reach, actively engaging in education, anti-drug campaigns, healthcare initiatives, agricultural livelihood programs, and broader community development efforts. These initiatives not only address critical issues but also empower local communities with the tools and knowledge needed for sustainable progress. This journey is a realization of the dream envisioned by Late Pastor P. R. Baby, who aspired to make a difference in the Himalayan regions of India. Although his health limitations prevented him from achieving all that he had hoped for, he nurtured and empowered a dedicated team to carry forward his vision. Today, the foundation stands as a testament to his legacy, and we take immense pride in seeing the tangible impact it has created in the lives of countless individuals. The progress so far is just the beginning, and with continued commitment, the foundation aims to uplift even more communities in the years to come.



Pr. Rakbath D Momin, Director
Faithcity A.chik Foundation, Bajengdoba,
North Garo Hills, Meghalaya



All Garo Hills Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd (AGHMPCS)

All Garo Hills Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd. (AGHMPCS) was founded in 2021 by Fr. Sunny Joseph Mavelil and has since grown significantly, now representing over 4,000 shareholders. As the apex body for 32 Primary Cooperative Societies across 11 blocks in four districts of the Garo Hills region, AGHMPCS stands as a testament to the power of cooperative efforts in strengthening grassroots organizations. With strong support from the Meghalaya Basin Management Agency (MBMA), the society plays a crucial role in ensuring fair prices for farm produce, directly benefiting local farmers and enhancing their livelihoods.



Today, AGHMPCS is equipped with modern laboratories, processing units, packaging facilities, and storage units, enabling efficient handling of various agricultural products, including cashews, areca nuts, black pepper, turmeric, ginger, and onions. Through its unwavering commitment to cooperative principles, AGHMPCS continues to drive economic empowerment and sustainable agricultural development in the Garo Hills region.



Roy K Alex, Former Director, Programs ESAF. Dehradun. Uttarakhand



KING'S CARAVAN. 2.0

"CHOOSE LIFE, SAY NO TO DRUGS UNITED AGAINST SUBSTANCE ABUSE!"

The King's Caravan 2.0, after the successful completion of over 50 impactful outdoor campaigns against drug abuse in Arunachal Pradesh and Siliguri in the Darjeeling district, has now arrived in Kolkata for the next phase of its mission. This 30-day awareness campaign will extend its reach across Jharkhand, Odisha, and West Bengal, spreading the message of a drug-free future. Through community engagement, interactive sessions, and educational initiatives, the campaign aims to inspire individuals, especially the youth, to choose a healthier and brighter path. Together, let's stand strong against substance abuse and build a better tomorrow! With unwavering dedication, The King's Caravan 2.0 continues to foster hope and resilience in communities, encouraging open conversations and proactive solutions. Join us in this transformative journey and be a part of the change!



Shalvin James, Director Faithcity A.chik Foundation Nirjuli, Papum Pare , Arunachal Pradesh - 791109

