

Leading with Compassion

Jesus healed before he preached, and his heart was full of compassion before he healed. The Pharisees and the teachers of the law in Jesus' time had a tough time understanding Jesus. His actions often contradicted the strict dos and don'ts that they enforced. The person's sinful past and the type and intensity of their sin made no difference to him. He was comfortable forgiving and hanging out with a prostitute as easily as a tax collector and the disobedient. The reason the Pharisees could not figure out Jesus was because, unlike the Pharisees whose actions revolved around the law, the nucleus of Jesus's actions was compassion. Simply put, he loved and cared for the people.

The instructions in the Bible are very black and white but the author of the Bible, our Lord, is anything but that. The first five books of the bible, also known as the Pentateuch, list numerous dos and don'ts. The Lord went into minute details on personal and communal holiness when he gave the law to Moses. Today that law is the basis for judicial and constitutional law of all countries. Then came David! David violated almost every law listed, including adultery and murder, for which the punishment was death. In spite of all the sins that David committed, in 1 Samuel 13:14, our Lord called David a man after God's own heart. When David dedicated his palace, he couldn't resist but sing in Psalms 30, "The Lord's anger lasts for only a second, but his favor lasts a lifetime".



Our Lord is a compassionate and forgiving God. The one the Lord has forgiven; do we have any business accusing? The one the Lord has accepted, are we quick to reject? Are we quick to judge, or do we look at other's misery with compassion? Behind smiling faces, one can never know what someone is going through.

In Matthew 18, Jesus talks about dealing with sin in the church. If a person sins, Jesus asks us to talk to the person directly; if that doesn't work, talk amid one or two mediators, and if again the person refuses

to listen, tell it to the church. If none of these progressive methods work, Jesus says to treat the person as a pagan and a tax collector. One could interpret these verses as a license to kick the person out, but the context says otherwise. Few verses before, Jesus talks about the shepherd who left all his sheep to find the one sheep that wandered away and the joy of finding that one sheep. A few verses after, Jesus asks Peter to forgive not seven times but seventy-seven times. Jesus himself was known as a friend of tax collectors. Based on the context, I doubt Jesus asked us to kick the person out. The law asks us to exclude the person, but a heart of compassion will forgive and pursue the person. Does law drive our actions like how the Pharisees lived, or do we respond with compassion? While the people of the world believe in second chances, can we extend beyond second and third chances to seventy-seven chances? Simply put, do we pray for the ones who have not been good to us?

It is the primary ethos of A.chik mission to lead with compassion. According to the triple-E vision the Lord has provided, the A.chik mission strives to empower along with evangelization, i.e., take care of the people with compassion. As the apostle Paul wrote, one could resurrect a dead person into life, but still, if there is no love, it is all a big zero. Love should not be restricted to words but also put into action. As I write this, we are preparing for our second mission trip to the Garo tribe in Meghalaya. We will release the audio bible in the Garo language on this trip. God willing, we will conduct two medical camps and, most exciting of all, inaugurate a new church in South Garo Hills. I look forward to reporting the details in the next month. Meanwhile, let's examine our hearts. Is love our driving force? Do we interact with our fellow brethren with compassion? Are we quick to write people off? I pray that the Lord will put his spirit of compassion in each one of us.

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



Triple Vision

Empower, Evangelize and Equip

The Triple-E vision was inspired by Jesus's ministry and derived specifically from the evangelization blueprint that Jesus gave to his disciples (Luke 10). Moved by compassion, Jesus first healed and cared for the people, i.e., Empowered them, before he Evangelized them. He then Equipped them, especially the twelve, to greater depths of truths in the kingdom of God. We are currently piloting the Triple-E vision in Meghalaya, India.

Faithcity
YOUTH VISION
Leading to GOD's Plan

Anger
Stress
Anxiety



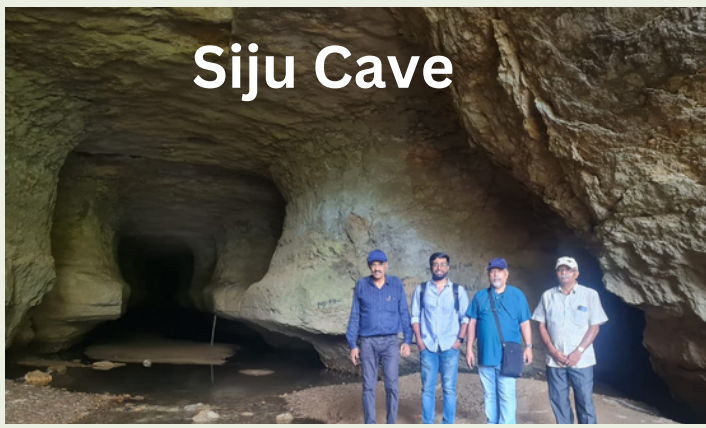
Conflict
Peer Pressure
Depression

Despair
Worried
Bullying
Unhappy
Beliefs
Obesity
Emotion
Addiction
Isolation
Loneliness
Discrimination
Unemployment

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Help us to guide you

Siju Cave



Siju Cave is located near Baghmara in the South Garo Hill District of Meghalaya. The Caves houses a remarkable formation of stalactites and stalagmites made of limestone. The Caves also houses river passages of the tributaries of the Simsang river. The Siju Caves are also called the Dobakkol or the Cave of Bats, due to an unusually large number and different species of bats residing in it.

On the way, you get to enjoy a short hike through the jungle, including places where you step over rushing mountain streamlets. A railed pathway has been constructed, which takes you through an area of astounding rock formations hidden in the dense vegetation. You could find the grand and tall arched entrance of Siju cave. As you enter deeper inside the cave, one can watch the light of the outside world become a speck. You can also follow some of the underground streams, clear and unpolluted. There are ponds and waterfalls in the cave system.

Siju cave's full extent has not been mapped but we already know it is one of the longest cave systems in the world. The Siju Cave system is known to be 7 km long, but the majority of the cave is filled with water making it inaccessible. The State Department of tourism runs a tourist lodge at Siju set amidst leafy surroundings, a perfect base as you explore the cave and the adjacent places of interest. If you are interested in an in-depth exploration of the cave with the proper gear and guidance, the Meghalaya Adventurers Association organizes caving trips. Meghalaya has 1580 caves, out of which only 980 caves have been explored. It is not just the legendary cave that makes Siju very enticing. The Siju Bird Sanctuary is a great place for nature lovers. The forests here are a stop for many migratory species like Siberian ducks and endemic residents include hornbills and the rare peacock pheasant. The Simsang river and nearby reserve will give you an up-close experience with the indomitable Garo Hills terrain and wilderness.



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Faithcity B' School transformed my fortune

Name : Sahil Savita
Batch : 12th
Year : 2018-2019

After completing my 12th in 2017 there was no any goal in my life. I wanted to discontinue my study. My life was going in to Darkness. I didn't respect anyone even my parents. I knew about FaithCity B school through a Pastor. I came to B School. I learned Piano and Musical Drum set and many more things in B School. Now my life has been completely changed. Faithcity B School is not just a school but A LIFE CHANGING PLACE. I'm very thankful for B School and also to the Pastor.PR Baby Sir and all the FaithCity members. And one more thing, In 2018 there was flood while I was at the B'school, but in that situation, the Lord protected us we did not lack anything . Lord gave me wisdom, and now I'm preparing for UPSC (IAS).



Borangs (Tree house)

Borangs (tree houses) have been an identifier of the Garos for centuries and have played an important part in the early history of one of the major tribes in Meghalaya.

The tradition of 'Borang' or a treehouse goes back centuries when Garos were still hunter-gatherers. 'Borangs' were then constructed as a way to save themselves from wild animals as well their enemies. It was also a vantage point to save their agricultural produce from wild animals.

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**Equipping
Next
Generation**

Vocational training
Seminars
Education
Health care
Charity work
Training Materials

Community Development
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pcefkerala@gmail.com
+91 9447028750

Governed by family, friends, and well wishers of Late Pastor. P.R. Baby

Pastor. P. R. Baby A Compassionate leader for the neighborhood



Also, as per the request of elected representatives of the municipality, and local self-government, study materials were issued free of cost to the needy students. Apart from these, scholarships were provided to deserving students who were good at their studies and encouraged them for higher studies.

Blankets, medicines, and essential materials for periodical repair of houses were provided to the senior

citizens and other needy people living around the community.

Pastor P. R. Baby always ensured that the people around should live happily. Church always took the initiative to supply essential food materials for the needy. People in need of immediate medical assistance and care were taken care of.

During the 2018 devastating Kerala flood, Church and all houses nearby village were submerged under water for weeks and people were in distress and helpless. The Church arose with immediate help by providing meals three times for about 450 people for one month, helping them to clean their houses, providing essentials for their living, and other rehabilitation needs. The church also undertook the responsibility of cleaning the city and public places. Pastor Baby was also concerned about the health of the community living around the neighbourhood. Medical camps & eye camps were organized every year with the participation of healthcare professionals, other community development agencies, and leading hospitals.

Bro: M.K. Cherian, Sholam Ministry Trust

Faith can move Mountains

I am sharing my testimony to uplift and inspire those facing similar challenges. My purpose is not to boast about my abilities or achievements, but to recognize that even the tiniest bit of faith can move mountains, and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, provides us with all the grace we need. My journey towards faith commenced when I was around 12 years old, and attending church was more of a social activity. However, after becoming a part of Faith City Church and learning from pastors like Pastor P. R. Baby, Pastor Babu John, Pastor K. V. Samuel, and Pastor C. V. Elias, I grasped the significance of praising God and studying His Word. Initially, I started my ministry by performing small tasks like folding mats and assisting the pastors. Eventually, I became the Head of Projection at Faith City Church before pursuing higher education in the US. Growing up in a church with prayerful parents, pastors, elders, and supportive members made my journey smoother. However, I faced my first challenge in high school when a math teacher treated me differently due to my higher scores than her daughter. She belittled me for minor mistakes, causing me to lose focus. Despite my passion for math, I scored only 75% in that subject and worried about my college prospects.

Nevertheless, through prayer and guidance, I pursued an Electronics and Instrumentation degree at the Federal Institute of Science and Technology. At this point, I decided not to be attached to worldly pleasures and prayed to God that if it was His will for me to pursue an Engineering degree, I should never receive a lower score in Math again. God remained faithful, and I never scored below 95% in Math throughout college. He even exceeded my expectations, helping me secure the 2nd rank in the University for Electronics and Instrumentation Engineering, for which my parents were honored with a Gold medal. When leaving the college, I was also presented with the Best Outgoing Student Award for the 2012-2016 batch. Initially, I had not planned on pursuing higher education abroad since I had secured job offers from a reputed Startup and Tata Consultancy Services. However, seeking guidance from the late Pastor P. R. Baby, I decided to apply for higher education at universities in the USA. After facing rejections from a few places, I received admission offers from several universities in New York, New Jersey, and Texas, each offering different scholarships and awards. But God had a different plan for me. Through a random advertisement on Facebook, I learned about a university in Wisconsin that had recently achieved R1 status, becoming one of the 126 universities with such a high research focus and activities.

Despite knowing little about Wisconsin or its weather, I applied to the university. I had not heard back from them until June when I decided to email the college representative to inquire about my admission status. To my surprise, the representative turned out to be the Dean of the Graduate school, and shortly after emailing her, I received an acceptance letter from the university, although without any scholarships. Seeking guidance once again, I consulted the late Pastor P. R. Baby, who advised me to focus on interdisciplinary coursework wherever I go. Miraculously, UWM Engineering School mentioned that their degree program emphasized interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary research and coursework. This was a clear confirmation that this was God's plan for me. I made a leap of faith and decided to pursue my Master's degree at UWM without any hesitation. However, my excitement soon turned to worry when I learned that I needed to show a substantial deposit for the University to issue my I-20, a crucial document for the Visa interview. Despite approaching several banks for a loan, I was disheartened to discover that they required the I-20 before processing my application. It seemed like all my efforts were in vain. But little did I know that trusting God blindly would lead to miraculous outcomes. But God was gracious enough to open a door and with everything in order, I successfully obtained the US student visa and prepared to travel to Milwaukee, WI. As I looked up historical weather data for Milwaukee, I realized the cold weather might pose a challenge, and I also sought to connect with a church and a Keralite family in the area to feel a sense of home away from home. God answered my prayers when I reached out to Dr. Sini Joys Mathew, who connected me with Pr. Baiju Thevatharathil, and ultimately, I met my current pastor, Pastor Jiju Oommen. Through him, I was introduced to Br. K. Sherry George, who lived just 20 minutes away from my university. Sherry uncle warmly welcomed me into his family, and I ended up staying with them for an entire semester before finding more affordable accommodation closer to the university. During this time, we formed a close brotherly bond that I cherish to this day. Sherry uncle's entire family, especially his caring mother, treated me like one of their own, and I felt blessed by their love and support. God's grace continued to shine upon me when I secured a job at the University, which not only provided a tuition waiver but also a living stipend. This job involved both research and teaching responsibilities, leading me to choose the thesis track for my Master's program. As the program neared its end, my advisor proposed the idea of continuing my studies and pursuing a doctoral program.

Seeking divine guidance, I asked God for direction, and I felt His reassuring presence, encouraging me to walk this path with Him by my side. However, I soon realized that this journey would be filled with unforeseen challenges, and God would grant me experiences that I could share with others to strengthen them and myself. In the beginning, my PhD journey showed promise as I made progress in my research and achieved good grades in classes. However, there came a critical point where I had to face a qualifying examination to be officially recognized as a doctoral candidate. In the Midwest region of the US, this examination spanned two days and covered various subjects from my bachelor's program. Unfortunately, my first attempt didn't yield the desired results. While I succeeded in the subjects that interested me, my overall score fell short, putting my degree at risk. In the face of this daunting situation, I was comforted by the encouraging words and prayers of the late Pastor P. R. Baby, Pastor Babu John and Pastor Jiju Oommen and both the churches in India and US. Although I felt more confident in the second attempt, I mentally prepared myself for the possibility of transferring to another university in the US or Canada. Weeks later, my professor, who also chaired the Electrical Engineering department, delivered a phone call with news that broke my heart. I had cleared the Day 2 exam, but my Day 1 score still didn't meet the university's requirements, meaning I might have to leave the university. In that moment of despair, God showed His perfect ways and unwavering support. The professor continued speaking, revealing that despite the setback, the faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering was willing to grant me one more attempt due to my strong research work and exemplary academic record. He also offered to personally review the topics that were not my area of study. It was a clear demonstration that our God works in unconventional ways, and with His grace, I embraced the opportunity and completed the qualifying exam successfully. In due course, I received approval from my professors to defend my dissertation. During the defense, all professors gave me a Pass with minor revisions to my work. However, one professor insisted on more data, despite previous committee agreement that the research was sufficient. In this moment of uncertainty, I sought guidance from Dr. Giby Raphael, Pr. Babu John, Pr. Jiju Oommen, and the prayers of believers from both Faithcity Church and Sharon Fellowship Church, Chicago. Through their counsel and unwavering support, I was able to convince the professor to release my dissertation, overcoming the last hurdle on my PhD journey. The challenges I faced taught me valuable lessons about perseverance, faith, and the power of prayer. I am grateful for the loving community of believers who stood with me throughout this process, and I know that with God's guidance, I will continue to move forward on the path He has laid out for me. Job 5:8-9: But if I were you, I would appeal to God; I would lay my cause before him. He performs wonders that cannot be fathomed, miracles that cannot be counted.

Sachin Davis.PhD
USA

