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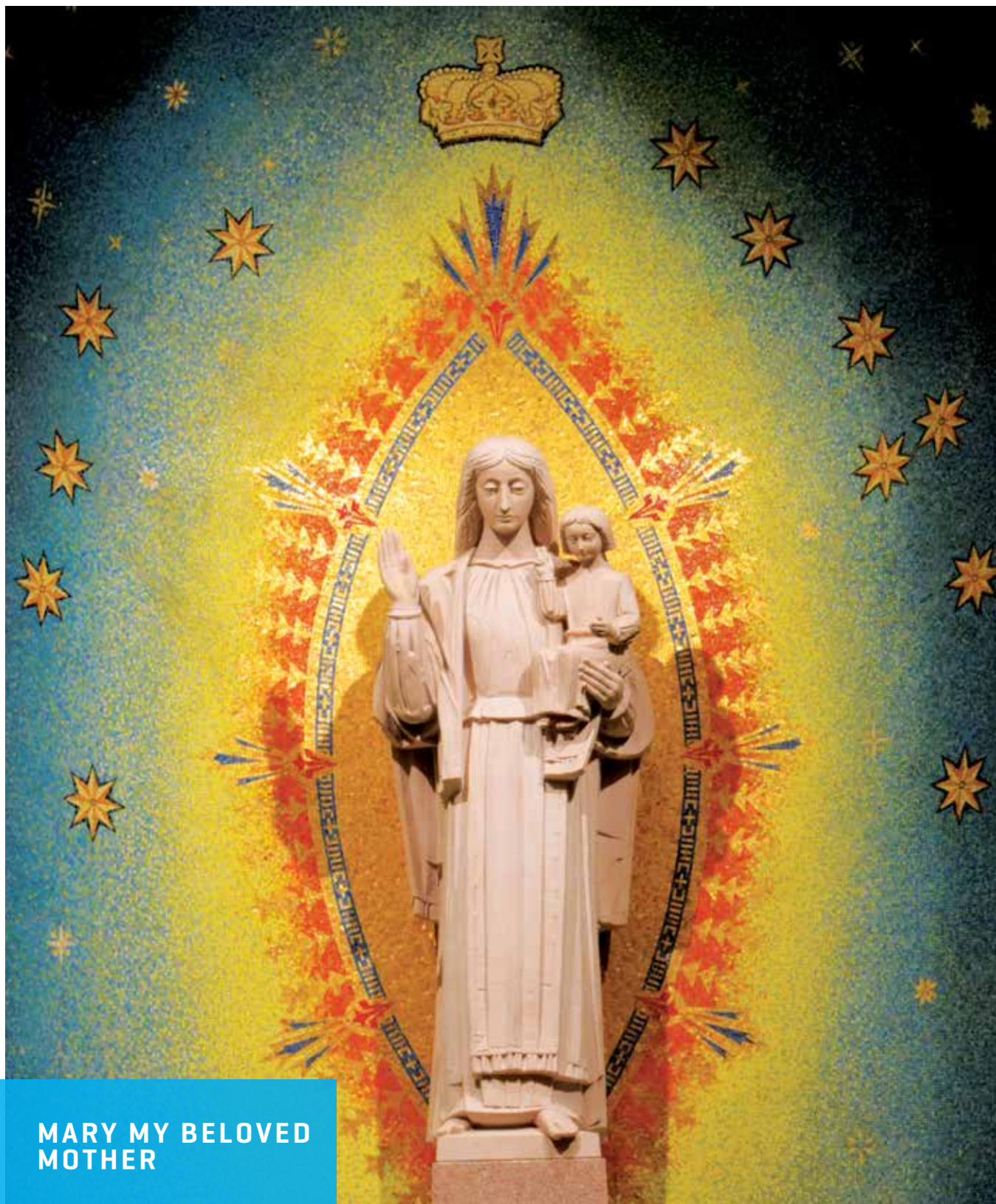
■ **JOBY MUNDACKAL
AND VINITHA**

I was no
longer afraid

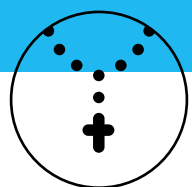
■ **ALICIA SREENY**



SHALINI GEORGE



MARY MY BELOVED MOTHER



O Mary, who through your Fiat, chose to surrender your life to the will of God, grant we pray that as you generously offered your son for the salvation of the world, may we also unite our sufferings with your son's passion for the redemption of the world.

EDITOR'S ROOM



DR. CHACKOCHAN J NJAVALLIL



THEY ARE SO GENEROUS THAT THEY FORGET THEMSELVES, STRUGGLE AND SACRIFICE THEMSELVES TO BUILD OTHERS, THAT THE CHURCH AMONGST THE YOUNGSTERS IS BUILT

Generosity (also called largess) is the virtue of being unattached to material possessions. The quality of being kind and generous.

While reflecting on the various aspects of generosity, three significant people who have had momentous influence on the lives of thousands of people around the world including me came to my mind.

I had the privilege of being a participant at the “Jesus Youth ‘85 Conference” where Jesus Youth got its name. It was the beginning of our major initiatives in campuses. As a member of the Kerala Campus team, I interacted a lot with Prof. Alicekutty CC (lovingly called Alicekutty chechi, she celebrated her 75th birthday recently), Dr Edward Edezhath (Eddy chettan) and Fr Abraham Pallivathuckal (Palliachen).

True, these three people are unique, and significantly different in their nature, approaches, and ways. Prof. Alicekutty is always a 'be positive' person. She finds something positive in every person she meets (including me!). Even after three decades of acquaintance with her, she continues to do so.

It will be difficult for me to find out the amount of time I have spent in Eddy chettan's home while being a JY coordinator from 1992-1996 and after. He is someone a lot of people turn to guidance and direction then and now. Recognizing his contributions in various fields, he was given the Chevalier title by the Church recently. Will it be possible to find out the volume of time consumed by Fr Abraham Pallivathuckal in the last four decades to listen, to guide and to walk with youth? He is there not only to counsel but is with them during their times of contentment and grief; a very unusual kind of priest who steps down to the level of youngsters.

“Generosity is giving more than you can, and pride is taking less than you need.” – Kahlil Gibran, Sand and Foam

One common thing found in these people and many others who contributed in building this youth movement is their lavishness in spending their money, energy, effort, resources, and more than anything, their time. This is true also in the case of hundreds of other leaders and animators of Jesus Youth around the world. They open not only their hearts and minds but also their homes to the requirements of youth. The single most element which has contributed in the progression of this lovely gift of God is the generosity of these persons. They are so generous that they forget themselves, struggle and sacrifice themselves to build others, that the Church amongst the youngsters is built. St. Francis of Assisi says “For it is in giving that we receive.”

Let's unite together to pray that this tribe may flourish.



Also LOOK OUTFOR

- 6 Ask Fr. Bitaju
- 24 Going the Second Mile..
- 40 Saints Priscilla and Aquila



It is well with the man who deals generously and lends, who conducts his affairs with justice.

Psalms 112:5

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LOOK ISSUE 10 INSIDE

REGULARS

- 6 Ask Fr.Bitaju
7 Pope Talk | DR. KOCHURANI JOSEPH
8 Mission Talk | DR SURYA DEVASSY
10 Jesus Youth | DR.EDWARD EDEZHATH

ENGAGE

12

WHAT IS MY PRAYER-O- SPHERE?

ANIL ISRAEL



CONTENTS

ENCOUNTER

18

**I was no
Longer Afraid**

ALICIA SREENY

FAMILY MEET

28

**EXPERIENCING
THE JOY
OF LOVE**

JOBY AND VINITHA MUNDACKAL



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EVOLUTION

16 Economy of Wealth – Money is God's Generosity | **DR KOCHURANI JOSEPH**

IN FOCUS

20 The Love Revolution | **SHALINI GEORGE**

24 Going the Second Mile... | **JOSEPH ANTHRAPER**

26 In everything, give thanks | **SINDA REBELLO**

FAMILIA

34 Gratitude as the Attitude of our Families | **MILLON JOSE**

LIVING LIFE

37 Living Life in Generosity

38 Newswatch

CHANDELIERS

40 Saints Priscilla and Aquila | **SANTHOSH JOSEPH & BIJIE SANTHOSH**

SOUNDREPLY

41 The BFG (2016) | **JOSEPH ANTHRAPER**

BLOOMING KIDS

42 How can we learn to be Generous in Life? | **SONEY ABRAHAM**

44 QuizTime



ASK



FR. BITAJU

Fr. Bitaju Mathew, O.S.S.T. belongs to the Order of the Most Holy Trinity and of the Captives (Trinitarians). He serves as the Secretary Vice Provincial of the Order in India and is currently the Chaplain of the Jesus Youth International Formation Team.

Q. Does God want me to be successful in my studies and chosen career?

A: The Oxford dictionary defines 'success' as the accomplishment of an aim or purpose OR the attainment of fame, wealth, or social status. Some become "successful" by accomplishing what they set out to do, or by attaining fame, wealth, and social status. Similarly, many people experience distress, discouragement and frustration as they feel they are not successful in their lives. No doubt, we live at a time and in a culture that measure our worth or significance by how 'successful' things appear to be. Moreover, we hear the prosperity gospel shouting aloud that says, 'God wants you to be rich, prosperous and successful'. Yet, our common experience is that in their lives most Christians are not that 'successful' in the above sense. So, does God want us to be really successful? The answer will depend on how you define 'success'. My scope here is to answer the question from a Catholic purview. It is true that essentially 'success' means accomplishing something we set out to do. The key is to set out to do what God wants us to do, even if it does not look much like success in the eyes of the world (Mk 8:36). The Scripture, especially Hebrews 11 throws light on what God defines as success: doing whatever God wants regardless of the cost. In other words, God's idea of success is obedience by faith. Living by faith means believing the promises of God, even when we can't see it. Obedience means living those promises out even when the consequences are less than desirable. A life of

discipline is the key to a life of obedience. The life of Jesus reveals the truly disciplined Son of the Father (Jn 4: 34; Heb. 5: 8; Phil 2: 8). In the life of a Catholic, discipline is one of the fundamental components of success. Perseverance, tenacity, resistance to temptations and self-control are some of the vital aspects of discipline (Gal 5: 22-23). Those disciplined can continue to move on in the face of adversity and learn to push through difficult times and situations to accomplish their goals. Moreover, for a Jesus Youth, the study or the particular profession one chooses through discernment is a 'vocation', a means to sainthood. Those whom the Church considers as saints are not necessarily successful in the eyes of the world. Consider St. Mother Teresa's statement about her ministry to the poor and dying in Calcutta: "God did not call me to be successful; he called me to be faithful." For her, disciplined life was being faithful even in small things. Therefore, success is being faithful to what God has entrusted me to do – study, job, life commitment. Then one would hear the Master say: 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful in small things, I will put you in charge of bigger things; enter into the joy of your master' (Mt. 25: 23).

Please send your questions to askfrbitaju@kairos.global and your questions will be answered here.



YOUCAT 45

DO NATURAL LAWS AND NATURAL SYSTEMS COME FROM GOD ALSO?

Yes. The laws of nature and natural systems are also part of God's creation. [339, 346, 354]

Man is not a blank slate. He is shaped by the order and the natural laws that God has inscribed in his creation. A Christian does not simply do "whatever he wants". He knows that he harms himself and damages his environment when he denies natural laws, uses things in ways contrary to their intrinsic order, and tries to be wiser than God, who created them. It demands too much of a person when he tries to design himself from start to finish.

POPE TALK...

Dr. Kochurani Joseph
Animator, National Professional Ministry, India



The Christian life is love, future and hope!

Dear young people, love is not dead. It calls us and sends us forth. It only asks that we open our heart. Let us ask for the apostolic strength to bring the Gospel to others – but to offer it, not impose it – and to resist the tendency to see our Christian life as if it were a museum of memories. Let us go forward, to meet these surprises.

Discern true rest from false rest

Society is thirsty for entertainment and holidays. The image-model of a successful person is one who can afford different kinds of pleasure. But this mentality slips towards dissatisfaction, an anesthetized existence of entertainment that is not rest, but alienation and escape from reality. Humanity has never rested as much as it does today, yet humanity has never experienced as much emptiness as today. True rest is a moment of contemplation and praise. In God alone do our soul finds rest.

Be conscious of God's provident care

It is a time to look at reality and say: how beautiful life

is. God's mercy liberates us. It is very important to open oneself to God's mercy so as not to be slaves of our selves. There are those people that spend the whole day looking at themselves in the mirror to see the ego. And one's ego has a higher stature than one's body. If we are slaves of ourselves we can't love, because love is always towards others.

True love is true freedom

True love detaches from possession, rebuilds relationships, is able to welcome and value one's neighbour, transforms every effort into joyful gift and renders one capable of communion. Love renders one free even in prison, even if one is weak and limited. True freedom is more than choice. It is liberation from the bondage of selfishness, sin and loveless-ness.

Honour your parents: they have given us life

In Hebrew the term honour indicates the glory, the value, literally the "weight", the consistency of a reality. In the Scriptures, to honour God means to recognize His reality, to reckon with His presence. Therefore, to honour the father and the mother means

to recognize their importance also with concrete acts, which express dedication, affection and care. Realising the fact that not all parents are perfect the fourth commandment bids us respect those who brought us into the world, despite their own limitations and the shortcomings of our childhood or home situation.



PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR NOVEMBER

UNIVERSAL
In Service of Peace

That the language of
love and dialogue may
always prevail over the
language of conflict.

Jesus offers us the possibility of being born anew and to enjoy life in abundance.

God has a plan for our life. He is our heavenly Father, who through the death and resurrection of his Son offers us the possibility of being born anew and to enjoy life in abundance. Jesus redeems us from the slavery of sin. In this light, we find fulfilment in the glorious freedom of the children of God.

Pope Francis says.....

- ▶ Peace is a choice: it cannot be imposed and it isn't found by chance.
- ▶ If you want to reach the heart of God, take the way of mercy, and allow yourself to be treated with mercy.
- ▶ It takes effort to always do good... The road to holiness is not for the lazy!
- ▶ God's grace can bring not only healing but strength to change and to build a constructive future.
- ▶ When a community is truly Christian, it only listens, welcomes, accompanies and walks, but does not impose anything.
- ▶ Sunday is not the day to cancel the other days but to recall them, bless them and make peace with life because life is precious.

MISSION

TALK

SURYA DEVASSY

Dr Surya Devassy talks about her yearlong mission as a doctor in Arunachal Pradesh, India.

Imagine travelling to the end of the world, living with a group of people who don't speak your language, or share your culture. Imagine living there for a year! That's exactly what Dr Surya Devassy, a doctor from Kerala did. She took a one-year commitment and went to Mengio, Arunachal Pradesh. Read about her incredible journey of mission.

The land of the rising sun

After attending the professional conference, Proficus in 2012, it was Surya's dream to work as a Jesus Youth mission doctor. She prepared herself and her parents for the same. Though

she didn't ask for a specific place, the Lord blessed her to be a mission doctor in the land of the rising sun, Arunachal Pradesh.

Surya worked in a Public Health Center (PHC) run by Karuna trust in Mengio, a small interior village in Papum Pare district, Arunachal Pradesh (India). Mengio is considered as the end of the world. Transportation and communication facilities are very primitive. From Itanagar, which is the state capital, one has to travel eight hours to reach Mengio. And the roads are bad.

Along with two priests, Surya reached Mengio on September 18, 2017. Though there were six of them at the PHC, most of them were always on leave, leaving Surya to deal with everything. It took her six months to learn the language and finally, she was able to communicate with her patients in their local language, Nyishi.

Culture shock

Village touring with the priests and youth helped her to understand Mengio people in a deeper way. Every house is made of bamboo. They are famous for their hospitality. The villagers made the bed with their blankets and would even tuck them in. They prepared food and brought water to wash hands. You just have to sit wherever you are. This is how they show their respect towards the guest.

People in Mengio doesn't take a shower or wash their clothes. Every village she visited, Surya had to take classes on cleanliness as well.

They usually take food only twice a day - rice and boiled leaves. Once in a while they will have boiled meat. It's a farmer's community and their main cultivation is cardamom for living and paddy for food.

The villagers practice polygamy and child marriage. However, after Christianity came to these villages, there's a considerable decrease in these practices.





Faith in the villages

Mengio is a whole Christian community – Catholics, Baptists and Revivals. Surya's parish had 17 village churches. Surya shares that village touring was great experience and a time of celebration. She could visit 14 villages as part of medical duty.

Christmas and Easter play a major role in their culture. The celebrations last for a week. During Christmas, people from every village church come to the parish and stay in nearby houses. There will be traditional cultural and sports competitions and prayer hours. On Christmas night, after all the celebrations, people will be dancing till early morning. Similarly, for Easter.

Surya shares that she was amazed to see the faith of the villagers. They radiated a sense of real Christian community. "If someone got sick they will gather in the house and pray for

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the healing. They are well aware that Jesus is the only answer to their problems. We will feel ashamed in front of their faith," says Surya. "They help others with their prayers. Their houses and fields are always open to everyone. Even if the house owner is not there we can enter into the house and have food and water. It's a local custom. Those who are hungry and thirsty are always welcomed."

Lessons from a remote village

Ask her about her transformation experience and Surya shares it's the small things that made a deep impact. "I'm not sure if I went through some reformation or anything. But I became firm in my trust in God."

Today, she is more confident about her career and her future. It seems, she has found her purpose. "Working here taught me that for living we won't need much. With all the necessities, we can be more than happy. All those luxuries we enjoyed became super luxuries," she shares and adds, "I think my lord taught me to be more affectionate and show empathy to my patients and fellow beings. And, I fell in love with simple life."

Living in Arunachal helped her to appreciate other culture and languages. She also shares that the stories of pioneer missionaries in the region has deeply inspired her.

More than that, she is amazed at the way God took care of her simple dreams. She had always dreamt of living in the mountains. Mengio is a picturesque place. All her life, she wanted a room for herself, a bit of personal space. In the village, she was living in a wood house all by herself.

Dr Surya's experiences are examples of how God can change something ordinary into something extraordinary. It was not easy to live in a strange land for a year, away from family, friends, away from your culture and food. Yet, He made everything beautiful.

JESUS YOUTH



Dr Edward Edezhath, one of the pioneers of Jesus Youth, gives us a glimpse of the growth of the movement.

Jesus Youth "Consultations": a way of listening and envisioning



"Three years back you brought together almost a thousand youth. But where are they now?" Fr Gino posed a challenge before this small gathering of senior leaders in the Renewal. "The elderly faithful may always remain with the Church, but not the youth. To keep young people in faith you need a relevant vision, a Christianity that is meaningful for their life and situation. If not, they will just disappear."

A few months back, in this column, I already mentioned this discussion we had in 1981 when Fr Gino Henriques the National Chairman of Charismatic Renewal in India posed this challenge before the Kerala Service Team. In 1978 we had worked well and had brought together a good bunch of enthusiastic youth, but after three years we had to begin the work all over again.

One problem that we all have, he remarked, is that we think we know

what young people of today need and that we know how to go about giving it. Today's youth are going through immense change and don't presume that we know it all. There is a big need to go to them and to listen to them carefully. Working with young people and getting them closer to the Church should start by sitting with them and listening to them. On that day Fr Gino articulated for us a new path for building a youth ministry. It is not just advising or preaching to youth but sitting with them and listening to what they have to say. This dialogue has to be the foundation for an ongoing youth accompaniment.

This discussion at St Teresa's College in Cochin led to the setting up of a 5 member team with the task of organizing 'consultations' and making recommendations about youth and some plans for their formation. This followed a series of gatherings in different places to ask young people what their needs were and what kinds of approach and activities they wanted. And its result? The first vision paper for a youth movement, which was submitted to the Kerala Service Team on 20th October 1981, entitled "Report of the Youth Working Committee".





Consultations and the growing JY movement

When we look back to the 40 plus years of history of the movement it is quite interesting to note that at every big turn in the journey of the movement there was some kind of a well-organized discussion gathering of leaders to "interpret the signs of the times" (Mt 16:3) and ask how we should move forward. As I mentioned 1978 and '81 were the big initial consultations. In 1986 University ministry was launched after a series of such consultations. In 1990 the work in parishes got a fillip in the same manner. In 1997 - 98 the movement became national in the same manner. The year 2002 found another big leap of it becoming international, with a series of discussion gatherings of JY leaders from different countries. A consultation gathering of Bishops in Dubai in the year 2012 was in the context of another big leap in the movement. To give shape to and launch a comprehensive faith formation plan for the whole movement, consultations were organized at all levels of the movement and the most significant one

was the big meeting of bishops.

A good biblical model of a consultation meeting is the gathering of the early church narrated in the Acts of the Apostles chapter 15, which we often refer to as the Jerusalem Council. On the face of a big confusion among the followers of Jesus most of the leaders of the early church gathered in the big city. Different viewpoints were presented in the assembly. They debated on it and everyone listened patiently. They consulted the Lord in prayer. Finally, a new vision and statement evolved. That was articulated and communicated to the wider church. Surely, a new church was born out of that.

So, in any consultation there is an initial question or confusion, a gathering, raising of voices, eager listening, fervent prayer, discerning a consensus, articulation of the new finding and follow up action. Ordinarily people are concerned about the first and the last. There is an issue or confusion and there has to be a solution. But the process of reaching that solution is what builds up

leadership and gives rise to a vibrant Christian community. For instance, in the second half of the 1990s the movement rapidly spread to different cities and states of India, giving rise to a lot of hope and at the same time engendering plenty of confusions. Many of the leaders started asking where all this was leading. Finally, a good section of leaders met with the representatives of the National Service Team of the CCR to thrash out the issues. The good outcome was a comprehensive statement and a clear plan to coordinate Jesus Youth movement at the national level, another milestone in the growth of the movement.

Smooth sailing is what every traveler of a boat wants, but unfortunately now and then a storm suddenly comes. In the life of the movement also, what all of us want is such a smooth sailing, but now and then conflicts and confusions come up. Our normal reaction is to become upset or to panic. But a mature reaction to storms in our community life is to recognize the call of the Lord to "discern the signs of the times". In the history of the Jesus Youth movement, we have done it repeatedly and have called it a step of 'consultation'. May be in our local fellowship or even in our small group we have to learn this dynamic of seeking the will of the Lord along with our friends or doing a 'mini-consultation'. This can be a time of 'recollection' or evaluation. We may even call it a group discernment. And that time of searching for the Lord's voice in unity with our brothers and sisters will not be in vain. It will surely bear abundant fruit of rich renewal.



Jesus Youth

To keep young people in faith you need a relevant vision, a Christianity that is meaningful for their life and situation

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Dr. Edward Edezhath, one of the pioneers of Jesus Youth movement, is a retired professor from St. Albert's College, Ernakulam. He is one of the Animators of the International Council. He lives with his wife Audrey in Kochi, India.

ENGAGE



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WHAT IS PRAYER-OS-HERE?

Anil Israel invites us to experience the beauty and joy of a life of prayer.

During my initial days with the Jesus Youth movement, when I was just a passive participant in our parish prayer group, I was sometimes asked, "how is your personal prayer?" At that time it hardly made sense to me as I could not co-relate with it, since daily family rosary and Sunday Holy Mass was all that consisted of my so-called prayer life.

How often do I think about a 'life of prayer'? Do I ever ponder over what composes my personal 'world of prayer'? Do I realize that I am a pray-er i.e. one who prays? Surely we all do pray, at least to come out of a situation that we no longer wish to remain in forever.

In prayer we bring ourselves in the presence of God. So Prayer, in a way, makes God somewhat tangibly present to us. Since it is 'in Him we live and move and exist' (Acts. 17:28), no wonder we are reminded to pray 'at all times' (Eph.6:18) 'unceasingly' (1Thes.5:17) 'always' (Lk.18:1) so as to sustain our existence in His presence. Our physical

body survives in a biosphere made up of atmosphere, hydrosphere and lithosphere i.e. we are dependent on air, water and food to physically survive. Likewise, our spiritual being would need a similar environment of spiritual sustenance, which given a choice I would love to refer to as a 'prayer-o-sphere' to survive.

Prayer can be likened to air as St. Padre Pio wisely expressed, "Prayer is the oxygen of the soul." Sacramental life could be likened to water for they are 'channels of grace'. 'Grace is a participation in the life of God' (CCC 1997) and is therefore essential for the spiritual life. The Word of God no doubt is the food – the nourishment for our souls. It feeds our faith, for 'faith comes from hearing' the word of God (Rom.10:17). So we can say that our prayer-o-sphere ought to consist of at least the first 3 pillars of the JY movement which as followers of Christ we are all called to put into daily practice. Community prayer life, as in fellowships, prayer group



LORD, I BELIEVE, HELP MY UNBELIEF

gatherings would further feed, nourish and enrich our souls.

How can I pray 'at all times' – 'unceasingly' – 'always'? I can choose to have mini vacations with God by setting aside a time for spiritual breakfast - personal prayer - a conference call with God. A spiritual lunch - dwelling on the Holy Living Word of God - allowing the spiritual seed to germinate and take root in me, so as to become an integral part of my being and thereby letting all my thoughts, words and actions be guided by it. A spiritual dinner - Sacramental life - receiving Grace through Holy Communion and regular Confession, to maintain a proper dwelling place for the Holy Spirit - the Counselor, the Encourager - to abide in us and direct our lives.

We can also schedule our lives to incorporate time for prayerful devotions such as Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, as well as setting apart a time for either reading, listening or watching spiritual inputs so as to create our own environment of prayer - a spiritual castle, a dwelling place for our souls - a prayer-o-sphere to stay spiritually alive.

Like consecrated lives who pray the Divine Office (Liturgy of the Hours) and integrate prayer into their daily lives, we too can choose to pray one-

line ejaculatory prayers either when we are commuting or doing our daily chores. Like Brother Lawrence, we too can practice the presence of God, by making all our activities as a prayer-offering. One-line scriptural prayers like, "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, Have mercy on me a sinner", "Lord, if you will you can make me clean" (Lk.5:12; Mt.8:2), "Lord, I believe, help my unbelief" (Mk.9:24), "Not my will but yours be done" (Mt.26:39; Mk.14:36; Lk.22:42; cf.Jn.6:38), "Father, for their sake I sanctify myself so that they too may be sanctified in you in truth" (Jn.17:19), play a powerful role in drawing us closer to God and being surrounded by His Holy Presence, for when we "draw near to God, He will draw near to us." (James 4:8)

Journeying with the Movement for almost two decades has blessed me with several opportunities to introspect, realign and renew my prayer life which has been evolving gradually over the years. Praying rosaries while travelling has now become a part of New Life in Christ. Opportunities for 40 Hours Eucharistic Adoration in different parishes are a blessing to spend quiet time with the Lord. Daily Online Rosary over Zoom, is further



*'PRAYER IS THE
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TO SURVIVE*



helping young people to stay connected in prayer. Prayer partners play a vital role to encourage and keep one's prayer life active.

"Prayer is good when accompanied by fasting, almsgiving and righteousness." (Tobit 12:8). A life soaked in an ocean of prayer (both personal as well as with like-minded groups) along with sacrifices lovingly embraced, is an excellent recipe of faithfulness in our pursuit of personal holiness. Like

engaged couples who are waiting to get married cannot but help themselves indulge in frequent communication via innumerable means, prayer also ought to be 'courtship with Christ' – a daily co-operation with Grace, for He is the Bridegroom and we are His beloved, the members of His Church - the mystical body of Christ. We all do have a responsible role to play in the salvation of our souls. I am the only person in existence who can set my prayer-life ablaze.

Am I willing to set aside time-and-space, for an intimate relationship with Jesus, to be filled with His Grace? For "If we let Christ into our lives, we lose nothing, nothing, absolutely nothing of what makes life free, beautiful and great." (Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, 24 April, 2005) ■



Anil Israel lives in Mannheim, Germany, with his wife Sunitha and their 5 children

EVOLUTION

ECONOMY OF WEALTH

MONEY IS GOD'S

GENEROS



“Do not say to yourself, “My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth.” But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth” (Deut. 8: 17-18).

Dr Kochurani Joseph
 ponders on the value of
 wealth and money in today's
 world from a Christian
 perspective

A story goes like this. A man once approached his parish priest about his confusion regarding a vow he made to God. Many years back while attending a retreat, this man came to know about the significance of giving tithe – the practice of giving one



**IT IS FOOLISH TO THEN
THINK THAT WE OWN OUR
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ITV

services under Barter system to a system based primarily on the transaction of money, human beings also began looking at ways to earn money. When Jesus says, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's; and to God the things that are God's," he advocates a prudent outlook towards wealth and money. Wealth creation and preservation, including every one of our endeavors towards making and increasing money/wealth ought to be done in a balanced way – with a true missionary spirit. And the first step in achieving this is to have the right and proper attitude towards wealth and money.

it. Deuteronomy 8: 11-18 is an invitation to always be aware that God indeed is the source of all our wealth and success.

The possession and handling of wealth and money, by their very nature has profound social implications. A wise financial planning ought to incorporate the below:

1. Being always aware that our wealth/money is a gift of God and we are only the stewards.
2. Being a gift of God, one should never use crooked ways to earn/preserve money and it has to be earned through the sweat of one's brows.
3. The preservation or sustenance of wealth has to be done only through just means.
4. Being aware of the needs to the people around and one's social responsibilities.

Gandhi often spoke about the seven dangers to human virtue – also known as social sins: wealth without work, pleasure without conscience, knowledge without character, business without ethics, science without humanity, religion without sacrifice and politics without principle. The words of prophet Haggai are still relevant – wealth without God often doesn't have a happy ending. Even though money is essential for our worldly life, yet if we become such people that money is our only capital, then truly we are the poorest of the poor. ■

tenth of one's income to God and his Church. Almost immediately he made the decision to give about 500 Rupees, then one tenth of his income. Gradually as time went by, his income increased, and now he has reached the situation where he would have to give about 10,000 Rupees as tithing offering. Should he be giving so much of his hard earned money to the Church was his profound conundrum. Now the vicar being a very wise man had a simple solution to the problem – "Do not worry", he said, "I will surely pray that God may resolve your confusion by reversing you to your original income so that you don't have to pay more than 500 Rupees".

Money is one of the most significant advances in the evolution of human civilization. As the economy of societies moved from the exchange of goods and

In Deuteronomy chapter 8: 17-18 we read God reiterating to the Israelites how everything that they have comes from Him. "Remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth". This ability comes to us in different ways and forms – for some through intellectual capacity and for some others through business acumen or through excelling in sports or through a capacity to teach others or care for others. Most of us build our careers/businesses upon these God given abilities, and so in reality we have not much to be proud of what we have really achieved in life. It is foolish to then think that we own our possessions and we can do whatever we please with



Dr. Kochurani Joseph holds a doctorate in Economics and served as a professor for more than three decades. With Jesus Youth from its inception, she is currently the Animator of the Jesus Youth Professional Ministry in India.

ENCOUNTER

I was no longer Afraid

IT WAS IN THE SILENCE **ALICIA SREENY** RECOGNISED THE MERCY OF GOD. INSTANTLY, YEARS OF BICKERING AND SORROW DISINTEGRATED. HER LIFE WAS WHOLE AGAIN



On July 28th of this year, as I was making sure I had enough clothes, bedsheets, and pillows for my travel and stay at the Three Mountains Retreat Center in Clifton, Texas, my phone vibrated and indicated I had an email about the Jesus Youth Teens Retreat which I was heading off to. Somewhere in the ocean of words, my eyes picked out the specific sentence: This will be a silent retreat.

“Jesus. Help me.”

Was there still time to get a refund? It had only been a month since the desire to know the Lord had ignited in my heart. There was still time to turn back. I was only 17. There will be more retreats. More opportunities. Silence was just not my thing.

Despite my reluctance, I knew it was too late to turn back, so I carried my luggage into those woods where there was nothing and came back having received everything. I’ve been to many retreats before, but this was the first I went to with an open mind and heart. Everything that was said to me, I let sink in. Some things offended me. Some things scared me. Most things brought me joy beyond all else. I let it all sink in. Every day, when we would enter praise and worship sessions, there were rivers under my eyes. I never knew why. It was as if I could feel the Lord’s embrace, and I finally experienced the perfect love I searched for in all the wrong places.

Soon, God kept bringing my dad into my mind.

When I was 13 years old, my father had suffered two massive strokes, and his whole persona was altered. Not only was he physically handicapped

from this point, but in a span of one night I saw my dad’s confidence transformed into self-doubt, his compassion into anger, and his humility into a need to prove independence. I watched on the sidelines for four years as my dad lost his abundance of friends and every relationship he had deteriorated. I found myself avoiding him more and more.

I rarely had kind words to speak to the man who raised me. I saw him as an obstacle and a burden. I loved him but despised his company. During those four years, I constantly and unknowingly inflicted pain onto the person that loved me more than anything. I victimized myself when in fact, I was the villain.


On that Monday night during the retreat, in front of the Blessed Sacrament where Jesus was holding me in His arms, He showed me everything. He showed me how when we were still in India, my dad would always bring me candy after a whole day of working at his office. He showed



me how my dad protected me from my grandfather’s disciplinarian ways. He showed me that everything I had ever asked of my dad, I had received.

I broke down. How could I be so cruel? I always thought of myself as a good person, but I was hurting one of the only people who cared for me unconditionally. I kept feeling my dad’s pain, and in that moment, I was very conscious of my heavenly Father as well. If my earthly father can suffer so much even when I see him and talk to him every day, how much more agony is my God in, when I don’t even bother acknowledging him?

Jesus said, “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them.”

 I finally understood this. I walked most of my life, selfishly assuming I’m not loved, but my Father in heaven loved me enough to give me an amazing life, an amazing family, and most importantly a chance to get to know his Son. The Lord made me understand that when I hurt my parents, I was also hurting his children.

After adoration, wiping my tears, I asked around to borrow a phone, and called my family. I cried and cried. I told my dad how sorry I was, and that was all it took for four years of bickering

and sorrow to disintegrate. My life was whole again.

Though I often took the path that led me away from God, he always built a detour for me to get back to Him. This retreat that I had been dreading became the turning point of every aspect of my existence. The Lord became my best friend. I was no longer afraid. I saw Him in everyone I interacted with. I mended broken relationships and let go of lost ones.

I found a haven at confession and joy at Holy Mass. Though I abhorred silence, I finally heard my God’s gentle voice in my head. I felt his love, mercy, and yearning for me.

As I spend my first year in college nine hours away from my home and family, the experience of the retreat remains in my heart. I ask God constantly to protect my loved ones and bring them joy, especially my dad who is not able to drive himself anywhere or experience the support and camaraderie he desires, but I know it will be okay because of how much my Father loves my father and me. ■■

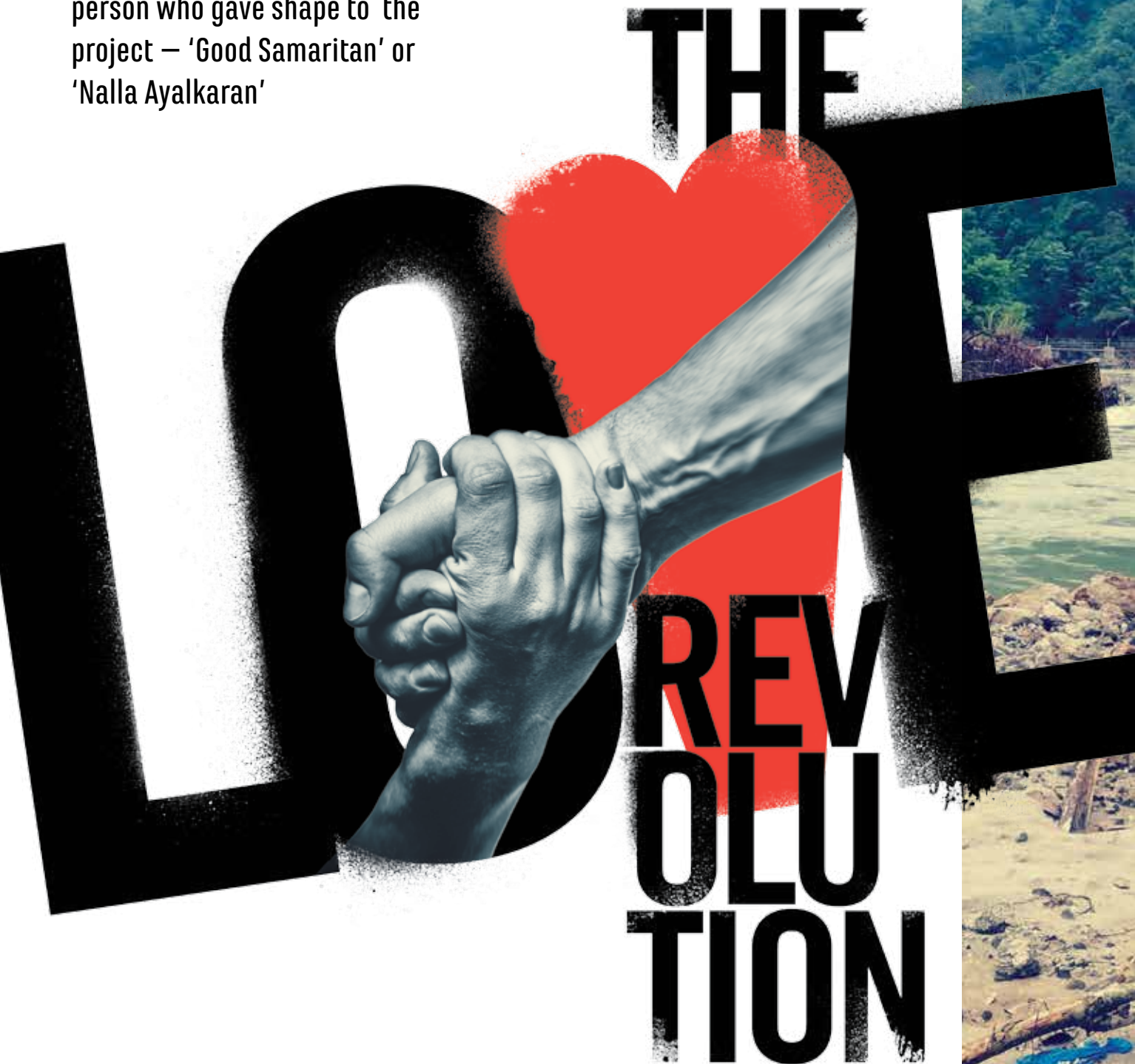


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IN FOCUS

Shalini George shares with us the thoughts of Raiju Varghese, the person who gave shape to the project – 'Good Samaritan' or 'Nalla Ayalkaran'





THE GREAT FLOODS IN KERALA

was described as many things – as one of the most devastating tragedy Kerala has ever witnessed, to one of the most significant

man-made disasters that will go down in the portals of history. The Great Floods of 2018 was indeed many things to many people. But above all, the deluge was a time when Kerala surprised the world by how it responded to this tragedy. Even for that diaspora of people that was not affected, this disaster was a time of introspection. Amidst all the chaos the inundations caused, and the ensuing loss of life, property and livestock, Kerala became truly God's own. Overnight it became the utopian state that had always been an impossible dream or a wishful thinking in the minds of its people. For a few weeks Kerala witnessed the hand of God over it. Every man, woman and child turned out to be angels in disguise. Love and generosity overflowed irrespective of caste, creed, religion, economic status and gender. People stood together and helped each other without ulterior motives – selflessly and generously. Kerala witnessed the possibilities of human goodness. The pure, unconditional and divine kind that can only be the work of a God who is Love.

You would've already read stories of heroism and generosity in the face of peril. Here we are going to walk back in time through the footprints of Rajju Varghese, the former International coordinator of Jesus Youth who gave shape to the project – 'Good Samaritan'. This was purely an initiative inspired by the Holy spirit in response to the great floods of Kerala, and Rajju was a merely an instrument in the hands of God. He gathered several JY brothers and sisters from all over the state and coordinated an efficiently run and networked relief operation which worked in collaboration with existing camps, filling in the gaps wherever necessary – some of the time on their own too, reaching out to places where no help had yet arrived.

While talking about the work of Good



Samaritan project, the main thing Raiju pointed out was the difference between Social Work as a profession (no doubt a noble profession indeed!) and serving people purely inspired by the love of Jesus. It is Christ's unconditional love for us and the experience of that love, which when overflows persuades us to step out of our comfort zones and step into the troubled lives of people. Raiju was quick to point out that Spirit inspires this kind of motivation in people as a result of God's compassion and mercy for us. Throughout the weeks after the floods the spirit of God was indeed at work. There was something palpable in the air, he said. It was almost an instinctual reaction of people to somehow be part of rescue/relief operations, however they could and in whatever way they could. Raiju believes that this spontaneous generosity in people was an inspiration of the Holy Spirit witnessing to the unconditional love of Christ our King. A chance for humanity to redeem itself by being instruments of God's mercy.

Raiju recalls how those days were indeed a great opportunity for Jesus Youth to be a witness to Jesus's love, and truly



live the gospel by literally being the Good Samaritan in every sense of the Word. Personally for Raiju, he said generosity is not something that comes naturally. But his Christ experience coupled with the exemplary witness of many Jesus youth leaders, who selflessly lived their lives for both the growth of the movement in furthering Christ's message, and the good of the nation has always been a training ground and an inspiration for him. His father too was an example of someone who not only helped but intervened in people's lives in times of need. Raiju believes that this kind of intervention is what Christ expects of us. And that kind of service is what should set us apart; not just extending help which does not inconvenience us too much, or pull us out of our benign self-absorption. But to actually put ourselves out there embracing discomfort and truly getting into the shoes of the troubled. And in retrospect, Raiju feels the days of the Great Floods were surely a practise ground for Jesus Youth to live that gospel truth, through the Good Samaritan project.

What the world witnessed in Kerala

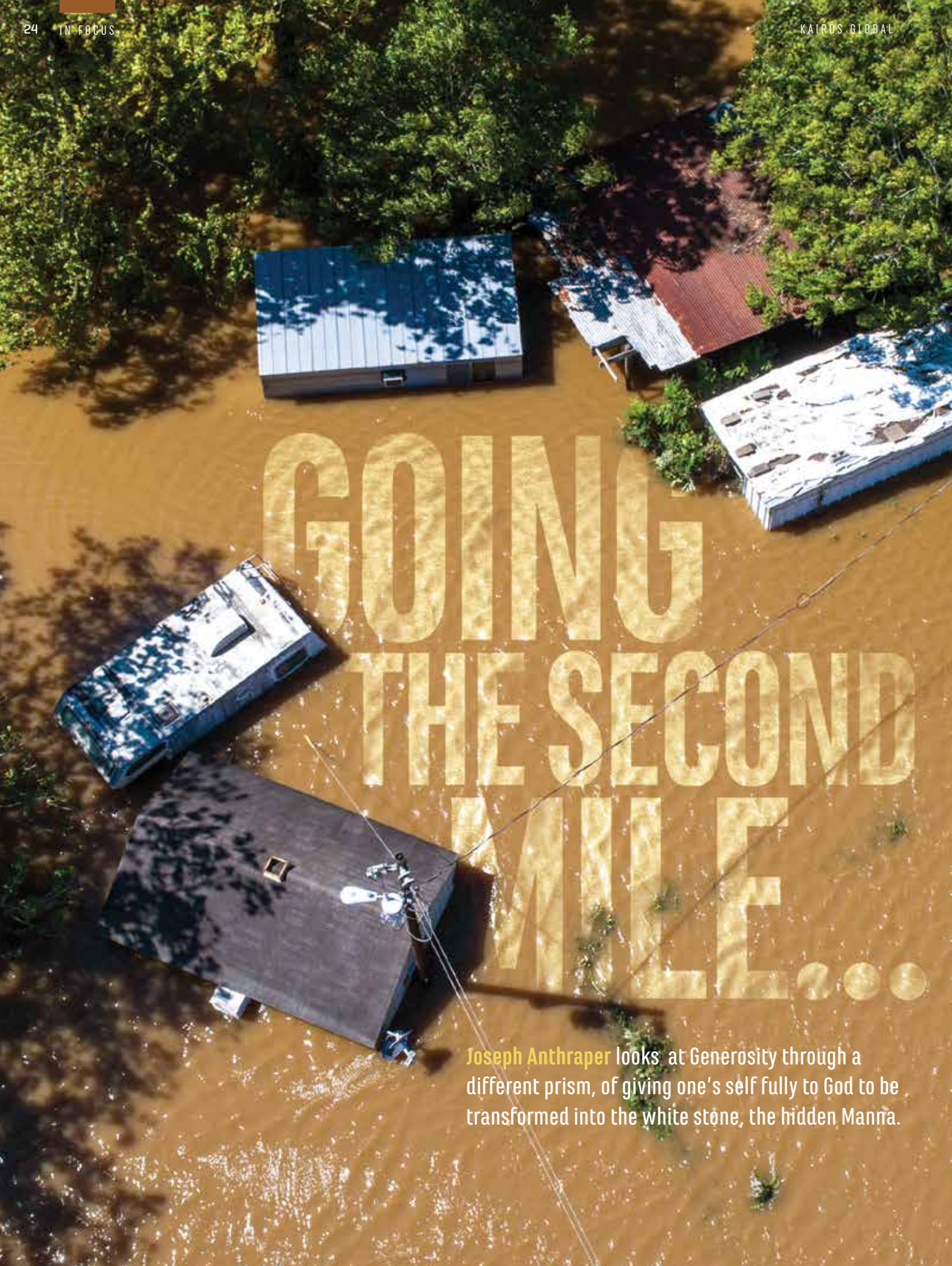
RAIJU BELIEVES THAT THIS SPONTANEOUS GENEROSITY IN PEOPLE WAS AN INSPIRATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WITNESSING TO THE UNCONDITIONAL LOVE OF CHRIST OUR KING

during these devastating times was not just the resilient spirit of the Keralite, but a revolution. A love revolution! A goodness revolution! Therefore the one message Raiju wants to reiterate to the next generation is a message of hope. However bad the world might seem to be, there is infinite possibilities of goodness still intact in man – instilled in his heart by his Creator. It is just a matter of who will take the first step. Raiju urges the youth to be that person, the one who will lead - never missing out on an opportunity to do good. Not looking away from the face of suffering. Turning all friendship to instruments of goodness. And doing good not for the sake of it but for the sake of Christ who first loved us enough to die on the cross to save us.

That is our calling as Jesus Youth; to lead. To remind people of their innate goodness. To reinforce purpose. To become enablers of this convergence of goodness and unconditional love. ■



Shalini George, a Jesus Youth, a freelance commercial writer who writes under the banner of iOW! (In Other Words) lives in Kannur, India with her husband George and two children.

An aerial photograph showing a flooded residential area. Several houses with various roof colors (blue, red, white) are partially submerged in muddy brown water. A boat is also visible in the water. The scene is surrounded by lush green trees. The title text is overlaid on the water.

GOING THE SECOND MILE...

Joseph Anthraper looks at Generosity through a different prism, of giving one's self fully to God to be transformed into the white stone, the hidden Manna.

“I love mankind,’ [the doctor] said, ‘but I marvel at myself: the more I love mankind in general, the less I love human beings in particular, separately, that is, as individual persons” (Brothers Karamazov). Life and its realities are difficult; love is difficult – Christian life and its call to a self-sacrificial love is even more challenging. Often I wonder about my own Christian journey – more often than not it feels like a case of ‘one step forward and two steps back’. And then, there is the Lord’s command, “if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile” (Mt 5:41). Well Lord, not sure if you noticed, I am having difficulty walking the first hundred yards or so with another human being!

GENEROSITY, OR MAYBE NOT

Generosity or magnanimity is something that makes us genuinely more human. As we saw in the aftermath of the recent floods in Kerala, there was and still is a profound outpouring of generosity from all around the world towards those suffering even now. Deep inside us something stirs while we witness or hear about the sufferings of fellow human beings – moving us to give, and give generously. And yet, one wonders whether at least in a small way generosity, like charity has become impersonal. Often, I am generous with what is left behind, after all my needs, wants and desires have been met. And in that sense, many of us desire to possess more to be able to become even more generous, yet not many of us want to be at the receiving end of someone else’s generosity – at times even when that someone else is God!

CAUTION – GOD AT WORK

Christian life is a journey that is far from easy. Jesus himself said that “with men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible” (Mt 19:26). Broadly we call this God’s help in making this impossible journey a possibility, ‘Grace’. Yet far from being the magic wand that I can wave to make myself better, this grace is a living (of course, free) reality that demands something from me. And over time, I have realised what it really demands is a generous giving of myself – complete with all the good, the bad and the ugly. But this is easier said

than done. The bad and the ugly – Oh yes, please take it away, the sooner the better! But as CS Lewis says, “Imagine yourself as a living house. God comes in to rebuild that house. At first, perhaps, you can understand what He is doing. But presently He starts knocking the house about in a way that hurts abominably and does not seem to make any sense. (Mere Christianity)” And me being me, I don’t like pain and I simply can’t understand when I see God taking away something that I thought was good in me. There was only so little goodness in me Lord, and if you take that away too....

GENEROUS TO GOD

After all the anger, desperation and resignation, when I do have a sane moment it dawns on me that if I really mean it when I pray ‘transform me God’, then I should let him really be God and trust him with what he is doing. He is



building something in me and through me, and all he asks of me is to be generous to him – in giving every bit of me so that the ‘real me’ can take shape. And of course, me being me, most times my impulsive answer is ‘thanks, but no thanks’! All Christian journeys start and some end here – the willingness to give myself to God – until it hurts! For we are sure of what Jesus has promised, “To everyone who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give a white stone, and on the white stone is written a new name that no one knows except the one who receives it. (Rev 2:17)” My name is my identity and how I long to receive this new identity!

Once this process starts, then the tree of life and the fabric of existence begins to make sense – and even the second mile seems plausible. We love and give to our fellow brethren not from what is left after our needs, but like the widow’s offering all that we have – not because we have suddenly become holy but because it seems only rational to do so. For as CS Lewis says, “Nothing that you have not given away will ever be really yours.” And what most of us really long to want is not the comfort or the security of money or possessions, but lasting joy, peace and stability that we rightly or wrongly believe will be at least partly provided by them.

As the doctor in Brothers Karamazov notes, it is indeed difficult to love the people around us with all their faults and shortcomings – often one finds it difficult to love oneself. And it is difficult too to go the second mile with someone who has in the first place forced us to walk the first mile. Both can become even remotely plausible only in an abundance of love – when as the little boy with five fish and two loaves I willingly share with Him the love that I think I have. He then, would take it and giving thanks break it and form it into true love – Agape! This is an ongoing process and I wait, learning every day to give a bit more generously to God and to everyone around. ■



Joseph Anthraper lives in Southampton with his wife Mahima and kids Anna-Claire and John-Paul, and loves reading, movies and apologetics.

He is part of the Kairos Global Editorial Council.

In
everything,
give thanks

Generosity inspires gratitude,
and gratitude inspires
generosity. *Sinda Rebello*
explores the fruits of being
grateful

AS I continue my journey of life with God, the term Gratitude - 'the state of being grateful', unfolds different dimensions and deeper meanings. In the beginning, more than a "state", I considered it more as an "action". Apparently, I believed that this action was something that merely gives the receiver a good feeling.

During my childhood, saying thanks to others, for each and every help or support, was good manners. 'If you do

not say thanks, you are mean'-this had always been the reason for acknowledging someone. In reality, it was never in concurrence with the definition of "Gratitude". More specifically, that wasn't any "state of being grateful", besides; it was more of a reflex action that automatically pops out of the mouth in return for others help. After all, who can understand better and enjoy the beauty of all creations unless through the Holy Spirit- who enlightens one's mind with wisdom.

For in 'HIM', all things have a much deeper purpose and meaning. Everything blooms into exquisiteness and become harmonious when connected with God. Who else in this whole Universe one has to be more grateful, than to God? Who else on the Earth, has been more generous? If at all, we bear a tiny bit of true Gratitude, to whom else must it be given first- other than our God-the Father Almighty, the provider of all our needs!

Being grateful to God, as I understand, is not just something that we give him in return for his love and mercy. In 1Thessalonians 5:18, "In everything, give thanks", it is not that God is demanding Thanks from us. Rather, God has much deeper graces hidden within it, which ultimately benefits us. If it is closely analysed, we can understand that the state of being grateful to God produces profound inner joy. With the little

wisdom I have, so far I have

discovered 3 indirect fruits of "Gratitude towards God" in life: contentment, feeling of richness and love for others.

To be grateful to God, I should first realize the immense grace he is generously showering on me each second. The breath I still have, the life- my near and dear ones have, the air, water, food, shelter etc. etc..... the list is infinite! What else could provide contentment in one's life, unless all the blessings that were already received were identified? I remember once

Daddy said to me (which he understood from a saint's

book), "the nature of a man is that he will initially pray for one thing, when he receives it he will pray for the second, then the third, it goes on. He seldom pauses and looks behind to embrace the stairs climbed so far, the times that God answered his prayers precisely in the way he wants. He is always in an urge- a life of dissatisfaction!" This made me think; am I feeling dissatisfied in life because I do not have anything? Or is it that I do not realize the things which I own? Subsequently, I realized that the virtue of gratitude makes one aware of the great position he is in, and that is definitely what gives him the feeling of contentment. In fact, it makes one aware of how blessed he is!

Mathew 13:12 - "For to those who have, more will be given, and they will have abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away", is something which I have always struggled to grasp the inner meaning of. Among the plentiful meaning it has, one was revealed to me in the context of gratitude. Many times, I have come across different people, in fact friends, who were just crying and complaining about many things. I used to wonder how they could act like they have nothing when in my eyes they were abundantly richer than me in many ways. This led me to think of Mathew 13:12 from a different perspective.

*He who has "Gratitude"
has discovered the
greatest Treasure-
the Presence of God
in his Life!*

He, who realizes the blessings and is thankful to God in each and every second, comprehends that God is relentlessly pouring out graces after graces. In reality, his eyes are on the things which he owns or has, giving a feeling of richness. On the contrary, when one's eyes are focussed on the things which he doesn't have, it not only blinds him from his actual riches, but it also makes him feel poor. Clearly saying, what would be the impact of having something and not knowing about it; the answer goes well with the verse- "even what they have will be taken away".

The third fruit of "Gratitude"- it helps one to love others! What would be the result of not having gratitude? What could it lead to? Nothing other than worry, materialism, greed, jealousy and complaints. Precisely, a person with great dissatisfaction over life can only look at others with contempt and jealousy.

In a nutshell, the serenity and joy of one's life is largely composed of "Gratitude". A person, who has cultivated this virtue from above, has mastered his life. He always carries the boundless list of all blessings from Heaven. Most importantly, he who has "Gratitude" has discovered the greatest Treasure- the Presence of God in his Life!



Sinda Rebello lives in Brisbane, Australia along with her husband- Shaan Gomez. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Reliability Engineering

FAMILY MEET

EXPERIENCING THE JOY OF LOVE

The IXth World Meeting of Families was held in Ireland this year. **Joby and Vinitha Mundackal** gives us a sneak-peek into those transforming six days

The IXth World Meeting of Families came to an end with the Papal Mass at Dublin's beautiful Phoenix park on 26 August 2018. An event like this always adds lots of memories to our faith journey.

As a family, we have longed to attend the World Meeting of Families (WMOF) for over a decade and that dream came true when it happened in Ireland during the summer. But two days before we set out on our journey, our parents had to evacuate their home in Kerala due to the worsening flood situation there. As expats living away from Kerala, we felt helpless and the excitement for our travel diminished, and with disturbed



minds we took our ferry and drove towards Dublin on 20 August. Next day we took a pilgrimage to Knock, the Marian apparition shrine where our Lady appeared along with St Joseph and St John the Evangelist along with a lamb, hovered by angels and a cross. In fact this apparition took place on the 21 August, 1879. We felt much peace during this pilgrimage and surrendered our homeland to her care and protection.

The theme of the WMOF 2018 “The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World”, was taken from the opening words of Pope Francis’ Apostolic Exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia*, The Joy of Love. The nine chapters of this Apostolic Exhortation was covered in the three days of the congress under the themes, “The family and faith” (Day 1), “The family and love” (Day 2) and “The family and hope” (Day 3).

The three days congress happened at the 42 acre multi event ground owned by Royal Dublin Society. The beauty of the congress was the abundance of programs catering to all age groups. Children under 12 years could either join Children’s Global Village where various children’s ministry groups did activities and sessions, or they could attend the “YOUCAT for Kids”, a beautiful gift from Pope Francis during this congress. Teens



in teen’s village also attended various workshops, and youth could join YOUCAT space or even various topics in the Adult area. At one point adults had eight to nine parallel workshops, and during the three days around 65 sessions happened in total across 10 stages. A wonderful feast offered by the Church universal to the church domestic.

A key focus of the congress was the icon for WMOF 2018. Pope Francis encouraged everyone to gaze upon the icon. It shares the story of God’s protection by having Archangels on both doors, the Holy family round the table sharing its joys and sorrows as well as connecting with the Trinity. The icon also portrays images from Jesus’s childhood and various pivotal moments of his life.

WMOF 2018 also had an official Mascot – sheep ‘Eirinn’ meaning Ireland. In general the whole atmosphere was sharing God’s love towards each and every human being, as we are all part of one family.

We met families from all continents. Many of them came with their children. In fact the organizers very much welcomed this and to aid this, there was no fees for children to attend. People from other languages couldn’t understand many things that



were happening in English, but they were all happy and their kids joined wholeheartedly with other kids in the activities. Even though these days we hear many negative news about our Mother Church, events such as the WMOF bring to the fore the communion of her children which proclaims to the whole world that we are truly Catholic – universal and full of Love. This was beautifully manifested during

the festival of families, when nearly 100,000 pilgrims welcomed Pope Francis with various celebrations that lasted for more than three hours, with more than 2000 singers, dancers, performers and musicians at Croke Park on the 25 August..

Thus the best way to conclude this celebration was undertaking the few miles of pilgrim walk to join the Papal Mass on Sunday, 26th August.

An overview of the Program

► VINITHA JOBY

The pastoral congress of World Meeting of Families 2018 offered daily workshops and discussions, connected to Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love). There was a panel of experts and partners of Trocaire, who were speaking on the theme of how women are the key to unlock the potentials of developing countries around the world. "A society without mothers would be an inhuman society, for mothers always know how to bear witness, even in the worst of times, to tenderness, dedication and moral strength". Another important session by founder of Catholic Grandparents Association on the significant role of grandparents in the loving transmission of faith along with parents. The panel was about the reintroduction of the

forgotten practices like grace before meals, bedside prayers, keeping a crucifix or the image of Our Lady, abstaining from meat on Fridays and so on. In Amoris Laetitia Holy Father said, "It is essential that children actually see parents pray. Family practices and acts of devotion can be more powerful for evangelization than catechism classes or sermons." Panel on "The Revolution of tenderness" was communicating that God is our father and mother – full of tenderness. Tenderness is the quality so typical of mothers which is the strongest antidote to selfishness in the current society. "Vocation of Fatherhood" by Knights of Columbus, was on the popular culture that habitually portrays men as passive, unsecured and buffoonish and is witnessed in many shows and in media today. However the reality is that strong fathers are needed now more than ever. A great father makes his home a domestic church and in doing so he finds his fulfilment for himself and has a profound effect on his children. Fr Philip a former Manchester United football player

coordinated a workshop to discuss the role sport can play in the life of a Christian family, as it can help provide moments of cherishing God's gifts and renewing our zest for life.

The one I enjoyed most was done by Father Leo from USA, a cooking priest. Cooking a dish that can bring families to the table, which is the domestic church's altar and conversing how a regular family meal can strengthen the family ties and resolve many of the daily struggles. One of the fully packed presentations was by Bishop Barron, "Pope Francis on the Gospel of the family: What is Jesus calling our families to be?"

Joby Mundackal, Vinitha and family



A RENEWING EXPERIENCE

► BETSY RAJESH, IRELAND



Rajesh, Betsy and family

"World Meeting of Families 2018 was a joyful and an enriching experience for me and my family. During these five days we were able to meet, share, celebrate and gather strength to continue our journey of life. It was really an exciting time for the children to meet the Pope and to engage with their faith through songs, arts, crafts, dance as well as games. I was hugely inspired from attending the workshops and activities that explored the challenges of living faith within our families in today's world. Our lives are usually a mix of memories – some sweet, some spicy and some sour. But we are responsible to carry each other's cross, to lead them home – our heavenly home. That's what we are called for.

The Festival of Families celebration was a very memorable experience. Hearing the testimonies of various families, how they sustained the challenges of their lives with hope and love was extremely inspirational. It was also a great experience to watch and listen to the creative and talented performances of contemporary Irish and international artists that performed at the festival. Finally a strong desire to pray for our Catholic Church emerged and took root in me after attending the World family meeting. If we practice the three words explained by Pope Francis, "Please, Sorry, Thank You" in our families we can reduce a lot of our struggles."

“IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT CHILDREN ACTUALLY SEE PARENTS PRAY. FAMILY PRACTICES AND ACTS OF DEVOTION CAN BE MORE POWERFUL FOR EVANGELIZATION THAN CATECHISM CLASSES OR SERMONS”

IT WAS A BLESSING...

► MAZIANO & JOELINA, LEICESTER, UK

This was our first World Meeting of Families and our first visit to the land of Shamrock. If we had to describe the WMOF in a sentence, it would be "Truly indescribable from start to finish".

Ireland is a beautiful country, especially the countryside. Though we didn't know it at the time, we were blessed to visit the shrine of Knock on its 139th anniversary. From there we drove through the beautiful town of Westport to Croagh Patrick, this beautiful mountain where St. Patrick spent 40 days and 40 nights in fasting. Our parish priest in UK, Fr John Lally is also from county Mayo – coincidence or blessing I will let you decide. My personal experience with my family was the time we spent together, the sense of togetherness and peace which was beginning to fade in our family life, and the joy we felt meeting our brothers and sisters from different countries around the globe. We could not attend all the sessions, but we felt like God had chosen the right session for us, just perfect timing, God's timing. Since we came back from the WMOF the greatest blessing



till date has been that we pray the family rosary together with the kids every day. No excuse!! As we all belong to the big fat Catholic family, the church is asking us to do more as families. "Family" is the basis of all life. As Pope Francis said, use simple words like "THANK YOU", "PLEASE" and "I AM SORRY" in our everyday lives. These are very important family etiquettes. When a family forgives, love is present and when love is present, the Triune God is also present. Pope Francis emphasised that no family is perfect but with small gestures and act of kindness we can overcome this and be good examples to other families.

The most precious moment was at the airport when PAPA arrived. We could feel the place was filled with grace and immense blessing when he landed, unfortunately it was our time to say goodbye to Ireland. Not forgetting our Ireland JY family (Dias & family), a big thank you to them for their hospitality, their love and their hard work. We definitely learnt a lot from this humble family. Thank you to all JY Ireland for doing a great job organising. I encourage families if you can, to please go to the next WMOF in Rome 2021. I guarantee it will be a time of blessing. If you go, we will see you there, God willing. Until then, God bless." ■■




Maziano, Joelina and family



Joby Mundackal and Vinitha are active Jesus



Youth living in Manchester, UK with their four children.



Christmas is around the bend. Time to think about decor, gifts, and parties! How about gifting a magazine that celebrates His birth, life, death, and resurrection?

This Christmas, Give Christ. Gift Kairos



CATHOLIC MAGAZINE FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG WOMEN

KABOOS

GLORIOUS

CONTROL AND THE ART OF LETTING GO.
RAIFIEL CYRIL

FAMILIA



**GRATITUDE AS
THE ATTITUDE
OF OUR**

FAMILIES

God does not owe us anything. What we have is all given to us. **Millon Jose** explains the dynamics of a grateful heart

Thankfulness – Gratitude as The Attitude of our kids
If we have three meals a day and a comfortable place

to sleep, we are in the richest 15% of the world. To add to this, if we are in a family of faith-filled and loving parents, we can say we are in the top 15% of that 15%. Yet, our culture is leading our kids into an entitlement trap – a mentality that mistakenly assumes our every need or desire, to be our right. God does not owe us anything. What we have is all given to us. There are many things we don't deserve, yet we are given. It's all a free gift – our life and our faith. We get it and we give it, out of love.

Being conscious of this fact, that it's all a gift is the key to our attitude of thankfulness. If we have an understanding that it's all a gift, we will be thankful and joyful for what we have received. For it's not our right, but only because of God's love for us. Don't get me wrong, of course we are entitled to be loved, cared and respected for the fact that we are a child of God. All things we have and all that we are is given to us, and the proper response to this gift is an attitude of thankfulness, an attitude of gratitude. And that's why we always say "Thank You" for everything. If we start believing that what we get is our "right" and something we are "entitled" to, we stop being thankful and may be prone to complain as we think we "deserve" it.

We hear St Paul proclaiming

in 1 Cor 4:7 "What have you that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if it were not a gift?"

For parents, to get this fundamental aspect and to impart them to the kids is very important. Kids need a lot of things while growing up. But it is important for us as parents to understand that our kids don't necessarily deserve everything they want and desire. God gives blessings to us because of His love for us, and we do the same for our kids, because we love them.

So, what needs to happen for this to be practiced? To start with, we as parents should reflect on whether we practice this thankfulness in our lives. Even with our children, are we thankful for all the goodness in our child or are we focused on the few problems our child may have?

Talking to our kids more about the blessings we have rather than problems, builds thankfulness in them. When our life gets demanding and tough, we always need to keep our sense of gratitude alive. If we tend to groan about the loads of laundry or dishes to do, we can practice being thankful for the kids we have or the food that comes to the table. If we have a difficult boss at work or a colleague, then we can learn to be thankful for the job we have.

The reality is, we are sons and daughters of Adam and Eve, and so being grateful may not feel natural. We read in the Gospel of St Luke chapter 17 in the story of ten Lepers, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they?"

Teaching kids to be grateful will keep them rooted in happiness. A mind that thinks that it is entitled for all it wants and desires, will never be satisfied

Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" Aren't we surprised by the fact the most little kids don't like or want to share? So this habit needs to be practiced. The more we practice this habit of being grateful, the stronger it grows into being a part of our character. A fuel for this to happen is to find the blessings in everything we have and being conscious to recognize and give thanks for the everyday gifts that comes our way.

Some practical ways to practice gratitude in our families can be:

- ▶ Spending a few minutes during our family prayer, giving thanks for all the blessing we have received and all the persons that we have encountered during that day.
- ▶ Being thankful and saying "Thank You" within our own families for any little things shared.
- ▶ As parents, we can practice being thankful to our spouse for all the tasks or chores that they do at home, like feeding and caring for kids.
- ▶ Building a habit of being thankful for the weekends or whenever we get time off from work to spend



with our family.

► Making small trips to nearby parks and finding joy in the things that nature has to offer.

► A drive to the local store with kids for shopping can be a lesson of gratitude - for the money we have to get the things we need and for a safe road trip back home.

► Talking about road trips: at times we remember and thank God when we escape an accident. But what about the times He protected us without getting us into any danger? This is a good opportunity to practice gratitude.

► As a parent, if we constantly give

a sense to the kids that what they own is a gift and not something they deserve, then learning to share becomes easier.

► Not many of us are fortunate enough to go on mission trips to far-away places like Haiti or Africa or any other poor country. But taking our kids to a homeless shelter or a soup kitchen where they can see and help others will be a good lesson.

► And most of us parents help others by giving money and time, and kids need to see how generous we are in terms of our giving, so that they can learn these acts of

God gives blessings to us because of His love for us, and we do the same for our kids, because we love them

gratitude from their own home.

I give my five-year-old son, Thomas, a bath every evening. When he gets out of the shower, we say small prayer "Thank you Lord for the warm shower, clean water and a Dad who showers me and helps me get dry". We said this prayer for a few times, now it has become a habit for Thomas, to say this prayer every time he gets out of shower.

Teaching kids to be grateful will keep them rooted in happiness. A mind which thinks that it is entitled for all it wants and desires will never be satisfied. The primary effect of not having an entitlement mentality is that kids will find happiness in the small joys of daily life. We do not need an expensive toy or a vacation to keep them happy, but a family picnic in a local park or in the backyard will make them happy. Kids will develop a sense of respect towards God and their parents, because they will see all the things they receive at home.

The word "Eucharist" means "Thanksgiving". Being in this state of thankfulness of mind all the time and offering it up all during the Holy Mass is a great blessing. St. Paul calls us in 1 Thess 5:16-18 to "Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

So, if you think there is a lack of joy in your family, consider practicing gratitude. Today let's commit to practice thankfulness as a culture in our family. Our goal should be to bring about a habit of being grateful, always and for everything. ■



Millon Jose is a Jesus Youth; a Software Developer by Profession. He lives in Dallas, USA with his wife

Linda and six kids.

LIVING LIFE

LIVING
LIFE IN*Generosity*

Every time I stopped my car at a traffic signal people knocked on the window asking for money. I would never roll down the windows as I did not want to encourage begging. But at the same time I used to feel sad seeing them hungry and looking around for food even to the extent of digging into the garbage bin. Once I went to a shop nearby and bought a huge box of glucose biscuits, stacked them up in my car. That day onwards every time I stopped at a traffic signal I would happily roll down my window and pass on the biscuit packets to the needy. They would always receive it with a big smile. I also started praying a Hail Mary for every person I gave the biscuit to. It has now been almost seven years since I started this practice. Slowly my friends and colleagues who have travelled with me, observed me and started doing the same. Then I started sharing this idea with all my students in school. Many of them started stacking up their cars with biscuits. The Lord continued to use me in a powerful way and gave me opportunities to share about this during my concerts at different stages in various countries and many wrote to me later of how they have started to do the same. Generosity creates ripples and I thank my Lord for starting something beautiful through an ordinary person like me. For granting me the grace to see Him in every one of those needy people at the traffic signals

Timson Thomas
NEW DELHI, INDIA

Always thought that the virtue of generosity was about giving away money and being a student, I thought I couldn't afford to be generous. Over the past couple of years I've been challenged about how I spent my time and this has helped me realise that if generosity is about giving what I have, then that includes my time too. Gradually the Lord has led me to understand that going an extra mile for someone and doing that with love is what counts. It could be spending a little extra time listening to a friend sharing their problems or offering to cook for a flatmate when they are busy with exam revision. And when I fail to do these, what St Mother Teresa says is a great reminder - 'Do small things but with great love'.

Jismy Juda Thaddeus
EASTBOURNE, UK

Start paying attention to the needs around you - My biggest struggle is to be generous in giving my time for my family's needs. Can I help my wife with laundry or help my toddler with dinner so that my wife gets a breather from her chores? My generosity bears fruit when I stop looking at it as a loss to indulge in my selfish pursuits but gain when I know it helps her rejuvenate. Pay attention to the other's "love languages". A good friend of mine introduced me to the five types of love languages - gift giving, quality time, physical touch, acts of service and words of affirmation. If we can take a little effort to understand what is the language in which one can understand that they are loved, it goes a long way. It allowed me to solely look at what I perceive as a good act, but to go beyond.

Melvin David
DALLAS, USA

NewsWatch

NOVA | A Campus Meet, Pune, India



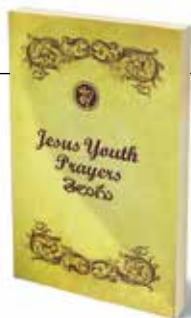
NOVA, an initiative of the Jesus Youth National Campus Ministry, was a Christian Youth Fellowship Gathering organized in Pune for the campuses in Goa, Maharashtra and Gujarat from 21 -23 September. The meet focused on reaching out in colleges, proclaiming Christ and making our fellow students aware of Jesus Youth. The three day residential program had Christ and His Kerygma as the pivot, and included Eucharistic Celebrations, inner healing

adorations, inspiring sessions – on church teachings and the challenges faced daily by young people in living their faith, and group activities helping youth leaders identify and mentor members in their own campuses. The gospel concert led by Acts of the Apostles, the renowned Jesus Youth band, provided the perfect icing on the cake. The concert evening was made more beautiful by the presence of Rev Bishop Mar Thomas Eleanal, Rt. Rev Bishop Thomas Mar

Anthonios and Rt. Rev. Bishop Thomas Dabre, who gave a spirit filled homily as well as an interview. Nova became a platform for its participants to begin a journey – to grow in their encounter with Jesus, so that all their plans, decisions and actions centre on Him. Many had a life transforming encounter giving them new sense of direction in life, and a renewed zeal to witness Christ in their campuses.

Tamilnadu Campus Meet 2018, Salem, India

TNCM'18 was a three day residential program for the students of various campuses in Tamilnadu, India held on September 21-23 at Salem, India. The program started off with icebreakers, group activities and vibrant sessions. Each of the three days had a theme, beginning with "God's Love", moving on to "Taking the Leap to Homecoming" and "Becoming the Modern Day Saint". The messages shared by Most Rev Dr S Singaroyan, Bishop of Salem and Most Rev. Dr. Lawrence Pius, Bishop of Dharmapuri served as an appetizer for the youth to yearn for the need of Christ in their life. Confessions helped to open up every heart and prepared the participants to receive the Holy Spirit. The Lord's healing touch and His unconditional love was felt by many during the inner healing adoration. As the programme came to an end, just like David, everyone was ready to thank and praise the Lord with music and dance.



The Jesus Youth prayer book in Telugu

The Jesus Youth prayer book in Telugu was released by His Lordship Bishop Udumala Bala along with Rev. Fr. Vignan Das, Rev. Fr. Praveen RYD, Telugu Region and Rev. Fr. Anil DYD, Warangal Diocese. We were blessed to have the presence of Mr. Charles, Coordinator Jesus Youth India and Mr. Livin, National Council at the function.

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KAIROS MEDIA, the mass media initiative of Jesus Youth, reaches out to young people around the world using modern means of communication.

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YOUTH RETREAT



LED BY FR. KURIAN MATTOM

NOV 9TH - 11TH / DEC 7TH - 9TH

FRIDAY 5PM TO SUNDAY 4PM

My soul thirsts for
God, for the living God.
When shall I come and
behold the face of God?

PSALMS 42:2



SVD Prarthana Nikethan,
Kaduthuruthy, Kerala
686604

FOR DETAILS CONTACT RAJAN PETER +91 8086685404, RAJESH JAMES +91 9847837474

Chandeliers

FAMILY SAINTS

✦ *Saints Priscilla and Aquila*

By Santhosh Joseph & Bijie Santhosh, Singapore

Before Emperor Constantine's Edict of Milan in 313, persecuted Christians often had to meet in private homes. The married couple Priscilla and Aquila, friends of Apostle Paul, were among those who opened their homes for the reading of the Word and the celebration of the Eucharist. Priscilla and Aquila met Paul while living in Corinth, after they had been exiled from Rome with other Jewish Christians. They shared his trade of tent-making and a warm friendship with Paul. In Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, we learn of their move to Ephesus. Writing from the city, Paul includes a greeting from Aquila and Priscilla with the church that meets at their house (1 Cor 16:19). Sometime later the couple returned to Rome where again they hosted the Christian community. Paul writes to the Romans, "My greetings to Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, who risked death to save my life: I am not the only one to owe them a debt of gratitude, all the churches among the pagans do as well" (Rom 16:3-4). This reminds me of the numerous times that our home is open to such gatherings and visits. It is really challenging when your hungry brothers and sisters in Christ come in and finish all your food, and stay on for hours enjoying the fellowship and entering the privacy of your home. In a worldly sense it is disastrous, a nuisance. I am sure it must have been the same for Priscilla and Aquila. They also must have had small children and space constraints. But for Paul and the churches they served, it was a blessing. Like them, we keep our homes open so that the church can grow. In a Wednesday Audience devoted to spouses, Pope Benedict XVI echoes Paul's gratitude. "In order to take root

"The commitment of these families, these spouses, these Christian communities, these lay faithful was necessary in order to offer the humus for the growth of the Faith"

in people's land and develop actively, the commitment of these families, these spouses, these Christian communities, these lay faithful was necessary in order to offer the humus for the growth of the Faith. As always, it is only in this way that the church grows."

The only way we can give thanks to God for using us as His home was in cultivating, albeit forcefully, in all of us a sense of generosity which has now become part of our life. Our mindsets – even our children's, have changed. A compassionate heart is a gift and with this even the hardest barriers to faith in people can be melted. This is the humus Pope Benedict XVI echoes. What a path to holiness as a couple – I am sure this is a sure way to holiness as a family. ■



SOUNDREPLY



MOVIE

THE BFG (2016)

Faith, Hope and Love – in a sense, no one exhibits these theological virtues more distinctly than a child. Childhood – the period where her faith in her parents is absolute,

unqualified by their capabilities or lack of it; where she hopes in and for everything with an innocence untainted by the pain and hurt of dreams lost; and where she loves unconditionally though unbeknownst, embodying the universal truth that in loving is found the joy of life. The world for him/her is straightforward – there is good and then there is bad, nothing more, nothing less. Our Master was spot on when he said to his disciples, “unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven” (Mt 18:2-4).

The BFG, masterfully crafted by Steven Spielberg and written by Melissa Mathison is based on the famous novel of the same name by Roald Dahl. Roald Dahl is an author famous for his children’s books, and The BFG, one of his best works has been read and loved by millions of children around the world. Spielberg’s live-action movie adaptation stays close to the original story with Mark Rylance brilliantly portraying the giant and Ruby Barnhill playing Sophie to perfection.

Sophie is a 10-year-old girl living in an orphanage in London, who because of her insomnia is often awake at night. During what she calls the ‘witching hour’ at 3 in the

morning, she accidentally sees a giant on the streets outside. Horrified she runs back and hides under her blanket, but the giant having seen Sophie, picks her up with her blanket and runs to a faraway country. Once inside his cave in the Giant Country, Sophie thinks the giant would eat her, but to her surprise, she learns that although he lives with nine flesh-eating giant neighbours, he doesn’t eat people. BFG’s diet includes the horrendous tasting ‘Snozzcumber’ vegetable soup with Froboscottle, a fizzy drink where bubbles go down!

Sophie soon gets to know the giant, whom she lovingly calls “The Big Friendly Giant (BFG)” more and enters into his world – an enchanting world of catching dreams and then moving through the villages, blowing good dreams into children’s sleep. She also gets a glimpse of the mean neighbours of BFG – ‘Flushlumppeater’, ‘Bloodbottler’, ‘Butcherboy’, ‘Bonecruncher’, ‘Gizzardgulper’, ‘Manhugger’, ‘Meatdripper’, ‘Childchewer’ and ‘Maidmasher’. She witnesses how these monsters would routinely bully and torment BFG and also learns from BFG that they are the ones responsible for children missing without a trace in their sleep across the world. With danger at their footsteps, Sophie and BFG come up with a plan to get rid of these giants and the rest of the movie follows them on this adventurous, yet humorous journey.

This is a children’s movie to the core. Contrary to the norm of Spielberg movies, there is no in-depth foray into the depth of individual characters or their

As BFG tells Sophie, “I hears your lonely heart, in all the secret whisperings of the world.”

emotional struggles. As black is different from white, there are good people, then there are bad people; there is the good BFG and then there are the baddies – such is the life of a child, and Spielberg has stayed true to this philosophy to make it an absolutely wonderful cinematic experience for children.

Even so, there are a lot of Christian themes that are fundamental in the story and evident throughout the movie. BFG in some sense portrays the loving, caring God, who though we don’t see him, is there – very close to us. As BFG tells Sophie, “I hears your lonely heart, in all the secret whisperings of the world.” Who other than the creator God can hear our lonely hearts in this world of 7 billion people? In a very powerful way, it also portrays the trust needed in the relationship with God. Once back at the orphanage, Sophie longs to be back with the BFG and jumps off the balcony in the hope that though she can’t see him, he would catch her. And he does. Without such leaps of faith, no relationship with God can ever sustain or flourish.

The BFG is a brilliant children’s movie that can be enjoyed and thoroughly appreciated by all age groups, for the love and simplicity of the story and of the characters. ■



REVIEW BY

Joseph Anthraper

lives in Southampton with his wife Mahima and kids Anna-Claire and John-Paul, and loves reading, movies and apologetics. He is part of the Kairos Global Editorial Council.

**Blooming
KIDS**

Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed. (Prov 19:17).

What is generosity? It is an act of giving our time, money, talent or anything we have happily for others; without expecting anything in return in order to make their lives better. People who do charity or donation for publicity or any other personal

gain, by this definition are perhaps not being as generous as they could be.

What does the Bible teach us about generosity? The Bible asks us to be generous like God who gave even his only Son for us, who have no merit for such a great blessing. We are reminded several times in the bible that any good deed we do to others we do it to God, and we will be rewarded in heaven and earth for it (Col 3:23-24, Rom 2:6, Lev 25:35-37, Ps 41:1-3, Prov 11:24-25). Of course, we all know the famous parable where one little boy decided to give his bread and fish to Jesus, who used it to feed the multitudes. Jesus also reminds us through

How can we learn to be **Generous** in life?



IDENTIFY THE BIBLE INCIDENT AND THE BOOK OF THE BIBLE THAT DESCRIBES THE INCIDENT.



SOME OTHER WAYS TO BE GENEROUS



By helping a classmate when they need help with studies



Smiling at others and listening to their problems



Visiting old age homes and/or orphanages



Giving up gifts or celebrations and giving that money for the poor and needy



Avoiding expensive clothes and toys



Helping elderly at church and in our neighborhood



Picking up trash and keeping their surroundings clean

the example of the poor widow that although she gave only two coins, she gave the most as she gave all her life savings.

How can we be generous? Jesus asks us to bear one another's burdens (whether emotional, physical, social, or economic) and thus fulfill the law of Christ to love as He loved. We should be generous as Christ was, in life. He healed the sick, forgave sins, taught us to forgive our enemies, prayed for His enemies, spent days and nights helping others and finally gave His life for us for our salvation.

As children, we have to be generous by thanking God for everything we have, being grateful for the sacrifices of our parents, helping with chores without being asked or rewarded, sharing our time, talent and health for our siblings, parents, strangers, teachers, friends and grandparents. There will also be many opportunities to forgive our siblings, friends and anyone who mistreats us and to help them in their needs.



Married for 18 years and having three kids, Soney Abraham lives in Dallas, USA and works as a Nurse practitioner. She enjoys any activity with kids, reading, listening to music, travelling and cooking. For Soney, 'God is all and all'.



QUIZTIME

A

MIRACLES IN THE BIBLE CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANSWER

1. Jesus told the Canaanite woman, "Great is your faith. Let it be done for you as you wish". What was her wish?

- A.** That her husband be cured of leprosy
- B.** That her daughter be raised from the dead
- C.** That she be healed from bleeding
- D.** That her daughter who is tormented by a demon be healed

2. The first miracle of Jesus

- A.** Raising Lazarus from the dead
- B.** Calming the storm
- C.** Cleansing the 10 lepers
- D.** Turning water to wine at Cana

1



3. Where did Jesus give eyesight to the blind beggar Bartimaeus?

- A.** Jericho
- B.** Bethany
- C.** Jerusalem
- D.** Capernaum

4. When Jesus fed the five thousand with five loaves and two fish, how many baskets were filled with the leftover of broken pieces?

- A.** 7
- B.** 5
- C.** 12
- D.** 10

5. How was Namaan healed of leprosy?

- A.** Elisha waved his hand over Namaan
- B.** The Lord heard the prayer of the servant girl
- C.** He washed himself in river Jordan seven times
- D.** He washed himself in Galilee seven times

6. "The sun stopped in the middle of the sky and delayed going down about a full day" Name the book of the Bible which records this incident.

- A.** 2 Kings
- B.** Joshua
- C.** Exodus
- D.** Genesis

7. Whose mother-in-law was healed of fever by Jesus?

- A.** Mathew
- B.** Thomas
- C.** Peter
- D.** Jairus

8. In the book of Numbers, we read about the donkey that spoke to its master "What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times" Name the master.

- A.** Aaron
- B.** Balak
- C.** Sihon
- D.** Balaam

9. How old was Abraham when the Lord appeared to him and said, "Your wife Sarah shall bear you a son, and you shall name him Isaac."

- A.** 49
- B.** 75
- C.** 99
- D.** 101

10. The place where the Lord confused the language of the people who wanted to build a tower with its top in the heavens

- A.** Babel
- B.** Moab
- C.** Sodom
- D.** Gerar

B SOLVE THE BIBLE ANAGRAMS BELOW, BASED ON THE GIVEN CLUES

1 adegnr

(Adam and Eve)

2 ghilnosst

(David and Goliath)

3 emprsttu

(Gideon)

4 ademrs

(Joseph)

5 abinorw

(Noah's ark)

6 gips (Prodigal son)

7 ckors

(Sower and the seeds)

8 cehijor (Zaccheus)

9 eefhimrs

(Disciples)

10 abdeeisttu

(Sermon on the Mount)

A CATHOLIC MAGAZINE FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG FAMILIES • ISSUE 10

KAIROS

GLOBAL

PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY

Experiencing the joy of love
■ JOBY MUNDACKAL AND VINITHA

I was no longer afraid
■ ALICIA SREENY

THE



REVOLUTION

SHALIN

Jesus Youth A Missionary Movement At The Service Of The Church



I Ch...
Kin...
DINOY

Missi...
Talk...
Chr...

Jesus Youth

Jesus Youth

We welcome articles, personal experiences, mission experiences, testimonies, practical teachings, reflections, insights, and much more by writers who are with the church and for the church. For more information, and to submit articles, please email editor@kairos.global

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