

The e-Scroll



Rev Colonel Lawrence Massey
1932 - 2021

*Let the elders who rule well be
considered worthy of double
honour, especially those who labour
in preaching and teaching*

1 Timothy 5:17

Pastor's Message

By Revd. Sandeep David



Late Rev. Col. Lawrence Massey, our founding Pastor

I took charge as the fourth Presbyterian-in-charge of Christ Church Noida, after the founder Presbyterian, Late Rev. Col. Lawrence Massey. What with COVID-19 and other circumstances, I, unfortunately, had minimal interaction with our beloved Rev. Massey. My impression of him was corroborated as I listened to all those who had known and worked with him for decades paying their tributes and narrating their fond memories of Late Rev. Massey.

If I were to describe the life and ministry of Late Rev. Massey in brief, I would say he lived a life exactly as He scripted it for himself! It is rare for people to plan for many years ahead of time and execute their plans to perfection. Late Rev. Massey did just that. Undoubtedly, he was guided by the Holy Spirit.

He ran his race of faith with exemplary perseverance and has now claimed his reward, resting in Christ for eternity. In all humility, he used to affirm, every now and again, that he was able to do all that only because of the grace of Jesus Christ.

All of us are in the service of Jesus Christ in one form or the other. Some of us are ordained clergy. It is only rarely that the one who planted a church, with a handful of believers and virtually no resources, live to see the church grow into a magnificent establishment that has become a landmark in Noida. It is our impression that this church is considered a model of a well-managed church in the Dioceses of Delhi.

Because of his many friendships and years of faithful service to God, we all seem to have stories about Late Rev. Massey and his impact on our lives. Some of the stories are inspiring; some are poignant; some are light-hearted; some are thought-provoking. Together, these stories give us a glimpse of a life well-lived. There are many lessons to be learnt from his ministry. He trusted our Lord without an iota of doubt. Despite advice by those around him, he ventured to proceed with the construction of the church building, with only a fraction of money needed in hand, trusting wholly on the benevolence of our Lord Jesus Christ. He was proved right again.

My earnest prayer for his noble soul and for his loved ones who will miss his presence all their lives.

Rev Sandeep David
Presbyter-in-Charge
Christ Church, NOIDA

Our Daddy

By Dr. Chitralekha Massey

Born on 30 November 1932, The Rev. Col Lawrence Massey, our father, daddy to all his children and grandchildren, was a doting grandfather, loving husband, and very much an army soldier in all his dealings; straight, direct, and honest.

He loved his family, and while he was strict, between our mother and him, we had a loving home, full of humour and teasing with at least a once a year explosion due to something we may have done – like busting the car windshield having taken the car out without permission or my brothers very quietly and sans permission going to participate at a district swimming championship, coming back with the district trophy but in trouble as one of them had his brand new bike stolen!!!

My father was a romantic, and he brought my mother presents in *his* favourite color – yellow! An avid movie buff – he and my mom went out to movies regularly. One of my vivid memories is of him driving his Vespa with my mother and all three siblings on the scooter going to the film at Fort William, Calcutta.

The son of a village pastor with steadfast faith often shared, including with strangers, that he was a self-made man and that God had blessed all of his siblings and family because his parents had incredible faith in the power of prayer. It appears that yet another generation of Massey's has reason to be grateful. Indeed, Lt. Col. Austen Massey, Lt. Col Basil Massey, their wives Nisha and Hiroko, Dr. Chitralekha Massey, and all five grandchildren are blessed because of our parent's faith in God.

He was direct, a shy, gentle, and humble man at heart; in a post of public service and responsible for leading the way forward, he had to take positions, and sometimes that meant disagreement. Nevertheless, he did push back firmly - without hesitation; Noteworthy, of course, is that none of his decisions or pushbacks were for any personal gain – every action of his was in the best interests of the Church.

The Christ Church NOIDA, the building, and the congregation today stand testimony to this fact. When he retired and come to NOIDA and started the first services at our house i.e. 655 sector 29, we didn't have a clue what was coming – for the next 17 years he worked every single day to establish this Church, fundraised tirelessly, met and wrote to people for the Church, the need to have a pastor's accommodation and Sunday school etc. in the compound. The various pastorate committees worked closely with him.

Every evening he would move into his study and library researching and rewriting his sermons. He never repeated a single sermon in the 17 years- I am happy to say that from very academic sermons, he was soon delivering sermons that were relevant and had a simple message that you knew you could implement in real life! I was one of his strongest critics, and we often discussed his delivery from the pulpit. This also meant that he had to sacrifice time with the family, and taking family holidays was a tussle for some time; I often voiced my resentment! But for Daddy, the Church and related duties was never a job he gave with his entire heart to this Church and Congregation. He happily continued to serve the Church for 17 plus years with complete dedication.

He often said that this Church was God's plan and God built it; Some of you may know that he was a passionate and dedicated paratrooper who never wavered in loyalty to his unit – the 5th Parachute-experienced a roman candle during a jump in 1968. It was a miracle that he survived, and against all odds, was evaluated back at A1 medical category. He believed that the reason he survived the Roman Candle in 1968 is the Christ Church NOIDA. Our father's destiny and this Church are intertwined. We, the entire family, are truly grateful for this legacy that he leaves behind for his grandchildren and further generations of worshippers at Christ Church.

Rev Col Lawrence Massey

By Shefali John

Greetings every reader!

Recollecting my memories and association with Col. Larence Massey and write about him, I count it as a great privilege.

The initiative, labour and contribution to Christ Church NOIDA by Late Rev Col Lawrence Massey is well knit and goes down into the history. Being frontline leader, he was instrumental in bringing the entire Christ Church, both in spiritual and physical body, into what it is now.

Amidst the hardship he may have faced during the initial years, Col. Lawrence Massey efforts and stressing unity among the then leaders ended in the genesis of this landmark Church of NOIDA. A herculean task completed, with growth over these years mirrors one of the most pivotal congregation of Delhi Diocese, Church of North India.

I've seen Col. Lawrence Massey as a calm and disciplined personality who was extremely proud of his family. Every interaction with Rev Massey of my family taught us something about his love for our Lord Jesus Christ. The church in those days was very eager to hear the word of God spoken by him, which was to always live a life separated, pure and holy and void of any offence for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

My memories of Late. Col. Lawrence Massey maybe limited, but I give God all Glory, Honour and praise for a life well lived life for Him, our Master.

"he being dead yet speaketh"
Heb 11:4



The Soldier Pastor

By Brig Rajiv Williams

'The Revd' Col Lawrence Massey, Founder Presbyterian of the 'CNI Church NOIDA', later christened 'Christ Church NOIDA', was a most dedicated Christian officer with vision and a missionary zeal to create a Christian legacy in NOIDA. Suffice to mention that he started his journey in establishing the Church, post-retirement after settling down at NOIDA by taking the first step of mobilizing the Christian community and conducting the first service at his own house in Sector 29, NOIDA.

I met him for the first time in August 1993, when we came to NOIDA, and ever since my interaction with him at a personal level grew from strength to strength. My first impression of Col Lawrence Massey at Church and subsequently a visit to his house confirmed my belief that he was a straightforward - down to earth – 'Soldier Pastor' with a deep understanding of Christian community living and examining details before making a decision. Having served in different geographies and with a reasonable Church going background, I volunteered to support our Church activities in any way that he would like me to get involved. He was most polite in his appreciation but waited a full six months before he gave me responsibilities in the Church.

He got me into the Pastorate Committee within the first year of my arrival and encouraged my family to be a part of various Church activities. My interaction with him increased when I became the Hony Secretary PC in 1995 and it was a pleasure sharing various thoughts on how to support his vision. Whenever we had our duties for Church cleaning (each family was given the responsibility of cleaning the Church on Saturdays), Col Massey was seen visiting the Church and without interfering, ensured that the Church premise looked neat and clean at all times.

I even remember when we held a 'Shramdhan' to cut the undergrowth in the area where our Church now stands with some members joining, Revd Massey came forward to lend a hand and that was much appreciated by all especially some Army men, I requested to voluntarily help in the effort. All this reflected his simplicity in ensuring his commitment.

Grieved by the loss of Mrs Massey, he continued to serve with the same zeal and spirit and quietly encouraged all. He was strict in his dealings and I remember intervening in some awkward situations developing where he took a stand on what he perceived as right and righteous. He used to confide in me on some issues and was ever so upfront in going out of his way to forgive and forget keeping the Church united. Though strong in his CNI approach yet the Pastor realized the needs of Churches coming up in NOIDA from other denominations and offered them our Church for conducting the services.

Having been posted to Srinagar in mid-1996, Col Massey took great care of my family and even asked Mrs Williams to take up the responsibility of Hony Secretary PC. Mrs Williams and Zubin were by themselves, with me in Kashmir and Kanishka having joined the medical school at Ludhiana. Pastor gave them immense support and encouragement to participate in Church as they both were regulars on Sundays.

It was indeed an honour for me and a humbling experience to be asked by The Revd. Col Lawrence Massey to be a part of the Foundation stone laying ceremony of our present Church.

The Soldier Pastor

By Brig Rajiv Williams

The first brick was placed by the Late Rt. Revd Pritam Santram, Bishop of Delhi, followed by a few of us placing the brick. I found that very moving as he wanted to remain in the background and encourage his Pastorate to undertake such meaningful acts. It reflected upon his persona and I think in consonance with his faith and belief that 'He' should be first 'Always and every time.

We as members of the CCN family, will always cherish his memories and feel his loss at Church. Thank you 'The Revd' Col Lawrence Massey for your dedication and selfless service to the 'Faith' to the 'Church' and the 'Nation'. May his soul RIP. May his loving family and the CCN family continue to look up to him for inspiration and Peace.

St. John Chapter 3 vs. 30 – "He must increase, but I must decrease"

Col Lawrence Massey in 2003, after his return from a trip abroad, was handed over a letter from the CNI Diocese thanking him for his services as also as his relief, 'The Revd' Dr Paul Swarup, who would take charge of the Pastorate. The Church members were surprised and some of us, PC members, decided to meet the Bishop with the request for allowing him to continue serving the CCN congregation but the Bishop did not rescind his decision. What touched me most was when we informed Revd. Massey on the decision of the Bishop quietly accepted wholeheartedly and graciously continued to serve the Church as a congregant.

His visits abroad to his daughter and relatives in the UK increased and on his return from his sojourns adapted himself well and kept connected with all of us. I would consult him often on Church matters and he would speak to me quite freely both on the telephone and in person. When Basil was getting married, he insisted I attend the wedding in Agra.

He would also often talk with much love and affection of his three children and always reflected on how he was blest.

Rev Col Lawrence Massey

By Vineeta Williams

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
2 Timothy 3:16-17 ESV

With deep reverence and gratitude, I write a short obituary for Rev Col Lawrence Massey, the founder Presbyter, of CCN.

We moved to Noida in mid-1993, and while settling down in a place, which was still a fledgling city, we were introduced to CCN. Few congregants and a small temporary church building, soon became our spiritual destination every Sunday. It is here that we met Rev Massey and he welcomed us warmly and made us part of a lifelong association with the Church.

We can never forget the ups and downs, the highs and lows and the continuous determined efforts of all the members, who were just a handful, in making the dream project of Rev Massey, take shape. The Church building we have now, in total, the outcome of the grit and determination of Rev Massey.

His ability to involve everyone in the Church activities was awesome. My special memory of him is that he prodded me into Bible Study. With Zubin to take care of, my free time was limited, yet he got me involved with the Bible Study Classes that he started after the new Church building was functional.

The first day of Bible study saw only one student, that was me, and Rev Massey as the instructor. The Bible verse which I have quoted above was the verse with which he began the Study. The class was held once a week and the teacher-student ratio remained 1:1 for some time.

I had to quit as Zubin needed attention for his medical treatment. I am not sure how long the classes lasted after I quit, and, whether he got more students or not. That short study time with him was an eye-opener for me. In my spare time, I started reading and studying the Word of God, more intently. It brought my walk with the Lord more meaningful and fruitful.

He urged me to be the PC secretary for a few months, as the then secretary was leaving Noida. Before that he made the ladies begin the WFCS. I too contributed as the President and later on, as the Treasurer. The WFCS had a jerky start as the number of ladies was less. Yet he helped us to restart and got us going.

When Kanishka filled up his forms for CMC Ludhiana, Rev Massey very kindly forwarded the forms to the Diocese, which later sponsored him for the MBBS course, after a grilling interview by the then Bishop of Delhi, (late) Bishop Santram.

Mrs Massey's passing away was traumatic for him, but with his Faith and firm resolve, he served The Lord continuously.

Rev Col Lawrence Massey

By Vineeta Williams

Besides being a soldier in the Indian Army, serving his motherland, he was a true soldier of The Cross serving his Living God. He was the chosen one, who had to be in Noida, at a time when the House of God, had to be constructed in a new city, with a handful of Christian members and minimal financial resources. His life has proved that God is an ever-present help when His Children earnestly pray for Showers of Blessings. God had truly equipped him for every good work.

I will end my tribute by offering a heartfelt “Thank you “to (late) Rev Col L Massey, for being a beacon for me, in my spiritual journey.

Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

Rev Col Lawrence Massey & Christ Church NOIDA

By Mrs Caleb

At the passing away of colonel Massey it is a time to record with gratitude all he did to establish Christ Church, Noida and as far as I know it is still the only CNI church in Noida.

Colonel Massey was the one that found the plot but at that time it was part of or next to the Defense colony, So he contacted the Bishop in Delhi for help. It so happened that Bishop Maqbul Calebs cousin brother was a senior Air-force officer currently stationed there. Blawant Chauhan, who later become Air Marshal was able to get permission and as a genuine Christian to convince the government that Army, Navy, Airforce Christina need a place of worship nearby. Bishop Maqbul consecrated the church, included it in Delhi Diocese although it was it was in UP – Lucknow area, and made a special visit from Dalhousie to celebrate his 80th Birthday. Chirst Church has a special place in his heart.

Last night I was able to phone Mrs. Dorothy(Dottie) Chauhan who now lives with her daug

hter in Bangalore inspite of being near her 93rd Birthday, she could remember the details of the plot better than I can. I asked her about what happened to the people who were displaced from the original site, she said they had tried to build a school, but the rules for a Delhi School were not something the church could do. So now I hear, there is a tuituion center!!

May the people of Christ Church Noida continue to have good priest and fill the church with the old, the young, the deaf and disabled too.

Tribute - Rev Col Lawrence Massey

By Kamna Cowasjee & Wing Cmdr. Ransford

For Ransford & myself, Rev. Col. Lawrence Massey was many people put together. He started as being an extraordinary Army officer, much to be admired, who also had the vision to think futuristically and study Theology in Hyderabad during his last two years of Army service before his retirement. This was in preparation for founding a Church in a new city, a city we also were destined to inhabit as we had committed our savings to own an apartment in NOIDA, an acronym for New Okhla Industrial Development Authority.

We, meaning a number of us Service Officers and families, who had all invested our meagre savings, in a housing scheme, cleverly initiated by the Govt. to help develop this Rajiv Gandhi era initiative to move industries out of Delhi to a new township.

They needed people to inhabit this township and who were better than disciplined serving and retiring Service personnel, seeking to secure a roof over their heads, post-retirement. But here comes the crux: how many of us thought, even remotely, of starting a Church in NOIDA! Think about it!!! Typical of Service people we were all reconciled to traipse to Delhi for our spiritual needs.

A lot has been written in the Silver Jubilee magazine about the first 25 years of Christ Church Noida and then again in the Church history book brought out on completion of 30 years. Anyone interested may please acquire a copy of the same. Suffice it to say, Rev. Col. L. Massey pastored this congregation for 16 years without missing a Sunday, without an Assistant pastor and with only Lay Leaders and other lay people for support. A most remarkable and praiseworthy achievement.

Over the years, from just being our Pastor, he became a friend, a fellow beer companion, and then family, especially after the passing of his wife Dolly. We shared bread on many birthday celebrations together. He enjoyed his saag & roti and often winter afternoons were spent sitting in the sun over beer & saag. He would often share his frustrations over Church and sometimes family matters and we became his sounding board and channel of relaxation. When hospitalised, he would call Ransford for moral support. Those were days when Austin & Basil were still in active service and Chitra was posted and working in far-away lands.

His retirement from active Church work in 2004, saw him spend more time with Chitra wherever she was posted, but whenever he came back to roost, we would catch up again. He enjoyed entertaining, whether big or smaller family gatherings. His brother James and his wife Kala were almost always there, when not travelling themselves. His growing medical problems made him more reclusive and less out-going, but the bond we had established remained. We still visited. It was the pandemic that put an end to all socialising for the last one and a half years. And this was the reason, that when he passed on, we felt we had let our friendship down by allowing ourselves to be dictated by regulations, while it was especially upsetting to be told we could not attend his funeral due to several restrictions. He still occupies a special place in our hearts and always will. In the final analysis, Life is made up of memories and over the years we have many to hold on to. Till we meet again in the yonder, may you sleep in peace, dear friend.



With Chitra, East Timor



After prayer at Lalibela



The Family



Ahana's 6th Birthday

Tribute to Rev Col Lawrence Massey

By Church Members

All those who worship at the Christ Church in Noida, will remember the Rev. Col. Lawrence Massey for a very long time as the Founder Presbyter of the church.

I remember the first time he came to our house to invite us to the first service held in his house on the 13th of November 1988. After the service, Anil, my husband requested that the next service be held at our place. Rev. Massey was very happy and after that services were held in the homes of different families who soon formed a regular church.

When our daughter was born in November 1989, she was the first child to be baptized by Rev. Massey in February 1990. Through the efforts of Rev. Massey and other members of the church, land was allotted, and the beautiful church building was built.

Remembering the Rev. Col. Massey. May his soul rest in peace.

Shunila Santram from Lucknow

My first born was baptized in a Roman Catholic church, my husband being one. Except for that, both have been coming to CCN ever since ! When it was time for my son to be confirmed, I mentioned this to Rev Col Lawrence Massey. His response was " Us-se kya fark padta hai..we are all Christians you see ". This was perhaps the only interaction I ever had with the late Rev Massey, but a lasting and memorable one. This little incident spoke volumes about his attitude and understanding of the oneness in Christianity irrespective of the different denominations. I pray for his eternal Rest and Peace in the loving arms of our Lord Jesus Christ

Vinita Caswell

Rev Massey will always be remembered as the pioneer of the church in Arun Vihar Noida . He was a very dedicated Christian. His calling & dedication is the reason for the existence of the Noida Church .

On a lighter note, there is one thing which brings a smile to our face is when we remember Col Lawrence Massey and that is changing the time of the church service on Sunday so that the popular TV series Maha Bharat that used to be telecast those days would not be missed by the people who watched it (as most probably everyone did) and not be missed by him either.

Rev Col Massey will always be remembered fondly by us.

John and Renu Peters and family from Australia

Tribute - Rev Col Lawrence Massey

By Reeta David

Going down Memory Lane some 32 years brings back some nostalgic memories of our Late pastor, Rev. Col. Lawrence Massey.

After he completed his services in the Indian Army, he didn't settle for a comfortable life, but was burdened to establish a church in the upcoming city of Noida.

Charged with the anointing and urgent call to establish a congregation in Noida, Rev. Col. Lawrence Massey began to enthusiastically mobilize Christian families to form a group of people who would open their homes each Sunday to worship and pray and have fellowship together. What started very much like the early Church in Antioch where the congregation was a closely knit family, sharing and caring for each other is now a prosperous Church located at a prime location. Today it is an official landmark of the city.

Because Rev. Col. Lawrence Massey began a good work for the Lord, Christ Church Noida, today stands on the foundation of selfless sacrifices, hard work and devoted service and most importantly many prayers.

Memories of our founder Pastor bring back to my mind the great concern he had for his small number of congregants which God gave him to nurture and grow. I remember him for his punctuality and total discipline in all the affairs of the Church. Even when initially our numbers were small, he was seriously committed in every area of Church life.

The project of a Church building for the budding Church was spearheaded by Pastor Lawrence Massey who made relentless efforts along with the small congregation to raise funds to acquire land on which a temporary structure would serve the purpose for the growing congregation. He put all his efforts to motivate his congregation for fund raising and before long a beautiful building came up. With much enthusiasm the congregation provided funds for furnishing the Church building under the leadership of our late pastor who had great faith in the Almighty God. Through all the ups and downs in his life he fulfilled his work for Christ Church Noida.

I am fortunate that our family was blessed richly by his life and commitment for his calling. He fought a good fight and kept the faith. In doing so he brought many souls into God's eternal kingdom.

We Pray that he is received into his eternal rest as a good and faithful servant of God.

Serving the Nation and Serving the Lord & Master

By Rear Admiral Sushil Ramsay

Our first contact with the Late Reverend (Colonel) Lawrence Massey was 22 years ago in August 1999 when on transfer from Visakhapatnam we moved into our house in Jalvayu Vihar, Sector 25. Over the next year and a half, we got to know Reverend (Colonel) Lawrence Massey better. We learnt that he joined the Indian Army, Bombay Sappers in 1952 as a Sepoy and rose through the ranks to be commissioned on 4th January 1964 as a Special List Officer in the Artillery. All through the blessings of Almighty God and his hard work, he rose to be a Colonel, a stupendous achievement by the grace of God. He retired from the Indian Army on 30th November 1987 whilst serving in the School (now College) of Artillery, Nasik.

Lo and behold, well before his impending retirement he responded to his calling and was ordained as a Deacon by the Bishop of Nasik and a year later he was ordained as a Pastor, again by the Bishop of Nasik - indeed, a unique achievement for a serving officer. To the best of my knowledge there is no other precedence, past and the present, such as this. The above notwithstanding, Reverend (Colonel) Lawrence Massey single mindedly proceeded to pursue his vision of establishing a CNI Church at NOIDA. He traversed a long and arduous journey in his mission. His objectives and his dreams were realized handsomely with grit and determination.

After my retirement in 2005, my wife, Shirley, and I moved back to our permanent residence and began worshiping at CCN. By then Reverend (Colonel) Lawrence Massey had retired. Nonetheless, we continued to remain in touch and would always be delighted to see him occupy his earmarked place at the first Pew on the left side of the aisle. Both of us would go and greet him before the start of the Service and looked forward to social interaction at the end of the Service along with many other congregants.

We always found him to be very friendly and caring. Whenever I met him at the ECHS Polyclinic he would greet with great warmth. Likewise, he would often call us on the phone and would leisurely chat with both of us. What was very special during those phone conversations was that towards the end he would invariably ask Shirley to pray for him. On many occasions he would make surprise visits to our place in the mornings, we would spend some quality times, he would pray for us and our family and in return he would request Shirley to pray for him and his family. One very striking feature we both observed was that he never brought up his personal issues/problems or talked about his ageing and health issues.

As time passed, we all knew that age was catching up fast with him. When we would receive the prayer requests from the Church on his hospitalization, we would make it a point to visit him. Despite his health condition each time we were happily surprised to see him nicely propped up in his hospital bed and looking cheerful.

Serving the Nation and Serving the Lord & Master

By Rear Admiral Sushil Ramsay

A Grand Patriarch

We had never witnessed greater joy and a sense of fulfillment on his face before, when he announced that his Grandson, Sahil Massey, had in the Summer of 2009 qualified to join the Indian Army. As Sahil Massey, the proud third generation of the Masseys, prepared to join the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun, the proud Grandfather celebrated the event in great style by organizing a dinner at the Arun Vihar Institute, Noida. May God bless Major Sahil Massey to do well and fulfill the dreams of his late Grandfather, Reverend (Colonel) Lawrence Massey.

We also very fondly remember many proud occasions of his presence during the Independence Day and Republic Day National Flag hoisting ceremonies at our Church.

A Feather in his Cap

I would like to conclude my tribute by recalling the proud moment when on 13th November 2013, Reverend (Colonel) Lawrence Massey led the processional march at the Silver Jubilee of Christ Church, Noida. At the Silver Jubilee commemoration there were as many as five Bishops of the Church of North India, both serving and retired, and about 15 ordained clergy of the Diocese of Delhi, Church of North India. This was a great blessing from God for Reverend (Colonel) Lawrence Massey, the founding Pastor to be physically present on this unique celebration.

May his noble soul rest in eternal Peace.



From left to right: Wing Commander Reginald Mukha, Brigadier Rajiv Williams, Reverend (Colonel) Lawrence Massey (seated), Rear Admiral Sushil Ramsay and Mr. Dina Nath

Tribute to Rev Col Lawrence Massey

By Mrs Usha Dyes

We came to Noida in late 1980s. At that time, it was a city of new settlers. There were very few markets and places of entertainment. We were in a new place with hardly any friends and no church to go to. Life was rather lonely.

One eventful day, we met Mrs Cowasjee who told us there is a retired Colonel who was taking service with Holy Communion in houses of Christian families as he is an ordained priest. We were excited hearing the news. He was no one else than Rev. Col. Lawrence Massey.

Every Sunday we had service in one of the 4-5 houses by rotation. Initially families of Lukose, Cowasjees, Peters, Harrisons and Alex John attended and Rev. Massey conducted the service. We became a very closely knit community and slowly the numbers started growing. A time came that the congregation grew so much so that we could not contain them in our houses and felt the need for a Church building.

Rev. Massey now started looking for the Church land alongwith help from Bishop Caleb and the Diocese. Eventually, Church land was allotted in sector 29. It was a thrilling moment for all of us, but due to lack of funds we were only able to build a shed for about 100 worshippers. The presence of God was such that the congregation strength under the leadership and guidance of Rev. Massey grew even further than expected and soon there was a great need for a bigger building.

Rev. Massey because of his faith, determination and vision did not give up. but in fact he raised hope and belief among the congregation and motivated all the members to reach out to others to assist in funding for this Church building. With a mere one lakh rupees in hand, Rev Col. Lawrence Massey was not daunted as he had faith that the Lord will provide our Church needs.

How the construction expenses were met was truly a miracle which Jesus performed using Rev Massey for his purpose. Eventually, with the support of the congregation, Col Shah's team of architects and God's grace, a beautiful Christ Church Noida was built. The mammoth task was achieved because of Rev. Massey's guiding spirit, perseverance and faith in Almighty God that today we can worship in this house of God.

He was God's soldier of the cross and the Spirit of the Lord moved in him very powerfully.

CCN members and the Christian community of Noida will always be proud and indebted to him for giving us this spiritual gift of Christ Church Noida. All who come to CCN feel blessed and find peace Christian or Non-Christians alike.

Dear Rev Massey. Rest in peace. You have left a great legacy and carved your way into Heaven.

Tribute to Rev Col Lawrence Massey

By Mrs Uma David

I met Rev Col Laurence Massey and his family for the first time in 1989-90 when we came for Christmas & New Year to Noida at my sister's place. When my sister told me that we have to attend the Christmas morning service at Rev Col Massey's residence it didn't strike that a retired Colonel of the Indian Army is also a pastor. We went for the service and I was surprised to see the fellowship and the number of families present to attend the service.

Rev Col Massey was a true soldier not only he led his troops during his tenure when he was serving in the Indian Army but after retirement continued to be the soldier in Jesus's army. He led a congregation of more than 200 people starting with a few who lived in Noida. From his service weapon in the Army to the Bible he had full control and mastered the art to use them that clearly displayed his dedication towards his duties .

He ensured that his tasks given to him were completed. From getting the land for our church till it's final construction he never rested. He was a wonderful human besides being a pastor he was always ready to reach out to others when in need.

Our congregation grew when the word spread about our beautiful church and the dedication of Rev Col Massey's in bringing Christ Church Noida to its helm. Post his retirement as a pastor the traditions he laid down still continues . Truly he was our church founder not by being the first presbyter in charge but his actions and the work he did clearly demonstrated his dedication towards God and his people. May the lord almighty bless his soul and make him rest peacefully. May God give strength to his children and their families.

Tribute to Rev Col Lawrence Massey

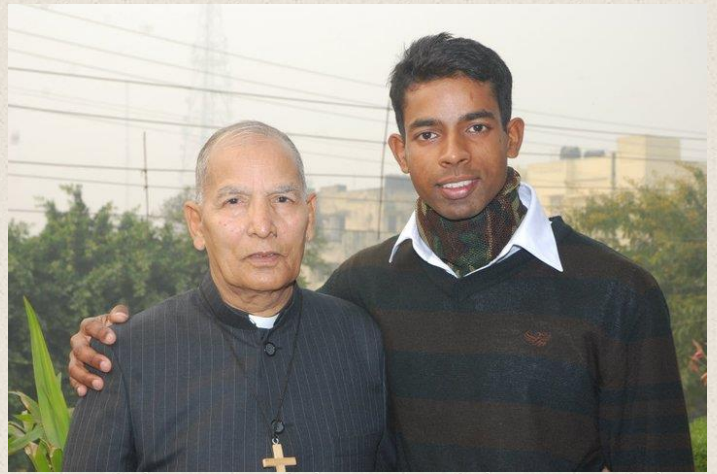
By Deepak Seth

It was because of my profession that I was introduced to Col. Lawrence Massey in 1996-97 by his brother and my dear dear friend Dr James Massey. At that time he was very busy establishing Noida Church and was looking for someone who could take care of the printing jobs of the Church. Col. Massey welcomed me with open arms and in a course of just one year became so warm towards me that he included me among his family and close friends. That I was able to win his love and trust in such a short span speaks as much of his congenial and affable character as his unfeigned, credulous - almost childlike - nature ! (That pristine quality he also shared with his Deepak Seth

It was because of my profession that I was introduced to Col. Lawrence Massey in 1996-97 by his brother and my dear dear friend Dr James Massey. At that time he was very busy establishing Noida Church and was looking for someone who could take care of the printing jobs of the Church. Col. Massey welcomed me with open arms and in a course of just one year became so warm towards me that he included me among his family and close friends. That I was able to win his love and trust in such a short span speaks as much of his congenial and affable character as his unfeigned, credulous - almost childlike - nature ! (That pristine quality he also shared with his brother James!) I enjoyed Col. Massey's uniting feeling of respect, honour and love all these years and always tried to keep myself worthy of it. I am thankful to his family who also always extended their unequivocal love to me. In this hour of grief I stand with them and pray that the Almighty ease this painful period for them.



Lalibela



With Sahil



With Fiji



Proud Grandpa



Egypt



St Georges, Lalibela, Ethiopia

Reverend Colonel Lawrence Massey- 1932 to 2021

By Capt. Kenneth Romulus

Christ Church Noida, The Dioceses of Delhi and Church of North India has lost a great and true servant of God. I know of no man who has more completely dedicated his time, talents, and interests in the work and ministry of our Lord. He has been a sterling example of love for The Christ Church and its congregation and our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Rev Col Lawrence Massey had the humblest of beginning, born on 30th November 1932 in a village and went to Mission School Dhariwal. At the age of twenty he joined the Army as a soldier and got commissioned in 1964. Most wouldn't know that Rev Col Massey, the soldier, was also a Para Trooper. He served in 5 and 7 Para Regiment, the elite soldiers who carry commando operations, in the enemy territory during war. He also served in the Bombay Sappers (Engineer Regiment) and the School of Artillery.

Through a correspondence course, he completed his Degree in Theology while in Army. The Bishop of Nasik Diocese appointed Col Massey as Deacon. He was ordained in 1987. Thus, began his journey as a Priest. He was presbyter-in-charge Christ Church Noida from 1988 to 2004. He took no remuneration from the Diocese of Delhi or the church all through 14 years of commendable service he rendered.

Met Reverend Colonel Massey in 1998 and I was charmed by his calmness, humbleness and smile. Throughout his pastoral service it was so soothing and his presence a blessing, and this fact will remain etched in my memory.

A great Christian leader, deeply loved, he will be missed very much by all of us.

May God bless and keep ever alive the memory of his devoted life of faith and service. The heavenly glow on his face when he lay in the coffin is truly and literally to say Reverend Colonel Lawrence Massey passed into glory.

Tribute to the Paratrooper and the Priest.

Late Rev Col Lawrence Massey As I Know

By Mr Deena Nath

I never knew Late Rev. Col. Lawrence Massey until I got introduced to him by one of our distant relatives, now late, Devadasan from Cathedral Church of Redemption Tamil Congregation somewhere, towards the end of 1980's or beginning of 1990's. Equally true it is that I know nothing much of his personal, professional, family, intellectual, philosophical and Biblical pursuits, accomplishments, credentials and qualifications, hence, not qualified to speak about those areas of his life except that he was a retired army Col., an enlightened individual, socially inclusive minded man and prudent, time conscious Honorary Priest, and, as per my knowledge and memory of the time, he was chosen, inspired and enabled by our Lord to build His Church at the time and place prepared by Him for him, which, he did with his great enthusiasm by fast mobilizing resources, continuously reaching the Noida Authority and CNI Delhi Diocese for quick clearances and go ahead with the building plans. Looking at the chain of events, perfectly fitting, Late Rev. Col. Lawrence Massey was a chosen instrument of Jesus Christ as a right man, at the right time and right place to build His Church that we have today. Noida by mid-1980, was a new and fast developing Township where by then, all the necessary infrastructure, public utilities and amenities were ready for use. By then, he had retired from army, moved in his newly acquired Noida house that was so close to the vacant plot meant for the Church construction. Many Christian families from civilians and Defence Forces, some seeking employment, some by way of transfer, some others for life after retirement, had moved to Noida, looking for a well-established Church. Except Home Churches, no mainstream Church existed those days in the township. At such a time, at such a place, Rev. Col. Lawrence Massey appeared on the scene.

Though few other Lord-sent men and women - Anil Santram, Wg. Cdr. Cowasjee, Cdr. Mullerworth, Wg. Cdr. Dennis Harrison, Gen. Kerr, Alex John, Dr. Mathew, - to mention just a few as per my memory, too, joyfully participated and contributed in building this Church as: a "fellow labourers in the vineyard," the conception, vision, overwhelming zeal, initiatives and urgency of the matter were his." In a small way, with humble contribution out of little we had then, Ruth and I too, chanced those initial years to lighten his burden in founding this Church as fellow labourers with him "in the vineyard."

Soon after our introduction, Rev. Col. Lawrence started visiting our very small and shabby house that we then possessed, sat in the veranda, shared a short Verse from the Scripture, said a short prayer and left the place soon thereafter. We felt at home with each other, so soon, the sense of Christian oneness manifested itself in us, feeding mutual trust and respect between us. Now and then, we as a family, visited his house, we were so well received, so well treated. When he began with us, we had a small, shabby and repaired needed house with possessions to the minimum. Before he demitted his office, we had improved and extended our house by adding to it, 2 floors. We had privilege to get our improved, altered and extended house blessed by him as our priest in office in the name of our Lord that still, stands, wherein, we continue to stay.

Late Rev Col Lawrence Massey As I Know

By Mr Deena Nath

I wonder what prompted him to take a particular interest in me, stay with me at certain level as an equal, use me for (reading Scripture, first, for months and year from any book of the Bible, then only Gospel reading, as if it were experimentation to elevation,) not only in ordinary services on Sundays but on all important occasions, events, celebrations even his own family events outside the Church. Honestly speaking, I cannot help saying, it was unusual, ahead of time mind, against the tide and trends to invite and involve a person like me, considering his high position and that of mine – he, a Col., a Priest, Reverent, himself an elite and surrounded by elites jostling for attention and influence, and I, socially and financially not so well off then to fit his psyche and close circle though working for a Bank, severely disabled by sight, always maintaining low profile. I believe, it was his social and spiritual inclusion mindedness that led him to me and kept me in his religious scheme of things till the end of his priestly office and thereafter. Even until a couple of years ago whenever we happened to attend the Church Service, no matter how far away he sat from in the Church, no matter how much crowded the Church was during or after the worship service, he never failed to reach me to shake hand with me to convey that he still, held me dear to his heart.

I remember, not once but more than twice, Late Rev. Col. Massey in his personal and private conversation, asked me to serve in the Church committee that for some reasons of inadequacies, always declined and continue to do so till date. I do not know on what basis, he considered me, a “serious and mature Christian” since I never had nor do I have any accomplishments or recognized credentials of a “Mature Christian.

Worth remembering and emulating about him is that quite many times, on numerous Church Administration matters, form of service, the Church worship Service and sermon language, we stood at the opposite ends. We had strong disagreements and differing views. I wrote strongly, he spoke strongly against me in the meetings. But our disagreements and differences did not degenerate into any bad blood, significant disputes, enmity, or any kind of antagonism towards each other. Our mature personal and institutional relationship remained intact as before.

His role and involvement in my life on social and spiritual levels, however little or limited, has been “fruit bearing” and edifying. He very forcefully, persuasively and purposefully connected me with the Church for edifying use for the word of God. How worthy and effective I proved, I cannot say. I mourn the demise of Rev. Col Lawrence Massey, but also, celebrate his life so well lived, so effectively used by His maker. He has gone to his eternal home where someday, all His faithful would go, but the Church he founded will live on as a heritage to us and those after us as long as its sanctity, purity and purpose would remain well maintained by the holy, faithful men and women. The best tribute that we can pay to him would be to maintain this Church as a “truthfully teaching Gospel, faithfully administering Sacrament and spiritually disciplining Church,” a hallmark of a true Church, not to let it slip into a kind of a talent display and socialization centre for people not interested or intentional in the Things of God.

Rev Col Lawrence Massey

By Egbert Family

It with fond memories that we remember Pastor Lawrence Massey, he initiated the fellowship of Christian families at Noida, which ultimately led to the building and the formation of the Christ Church at sector 29 Noida as it stands today.

In the beginning when Rev. Lawrence Massey came to Noida he identified the Christian families and brought them together. He took the initiative of reaching out to people, he approached Mrs. Shirley Egbert at the bus stop while she was waiting for her school bus, he politely introduced himself and asked if she knew of more Christian families in the area. In this way he managed to reach out, bind and form a congregation that ultimately grew and today is Christ Church, Noida.

Rev. Lawrence Massey was committed to his work, he was a disciplined and a through gentleman and took his duties as a pastor with great responsibility and was firm in his decisions. We remember when Mr. Egbert was sick for a long time, he used to visit our home regularly to pray, this used to give us so much strength and hope which was much needed at that time. With his support we started holding the Sunday mass regularly in the houses of the Church members, this gave us strength and made our presence seen in Noida in the 80's and led to the formation of the Christ Church, Noida Congratulations.

The contribution made by Rev. Lawrence Massey has resulted to what we as Christians of the CNI Church are today in Noida. Thanks to Rev. Lawrence Massey and his family members with prayers for his soul may rest in peace.

With fond memories

Tribute to Rev Col Lawrence Massey

By Maurice Ryder

The Christian church has expended tremendous commitment and energy to plant the gospel in India soil. According to well tested tradition, St. Thomas brought the gospel to India as early as 52 A.D. Since that time numerous efforts have been made to nurture the gospel on the Indian sub-continent. Pioneering missionaries of the highest order such as Francis Xavier and Robert de Nobili laboured in India. Later, the Protestant church, stirred by the sacrificial example of the Jesuits and the evangelistic zeal of the Pietists, began to respond in earnest to the missionary impulse, sending their early first fruits, Ziegenbalg and Plüschau to India.

Later, William Carey, known today as the father of the modern missionary movement, also devoted his entire career to furthering the gospel in India. During the subsequent "Great Century" of missions until the present, thousands of missionaries dedicated their lives to the task of communicating the gospel in India. If I may say so the Christian movement could have been, "standing in the corner like an exotic stunted plant with poor foliage, showing little or no promise of blossom" I am tempted to think why the fruit in India had been so meagre, given the long history and earnest commitment of Christians through history through the years.

I would seriously and sincerely like to add the name of Rev Col. Lawrence Massey to this historical list.

After a full service in the Indian Army he retired to take up his cross and put on the map our dear Christ Church of Noida. Starting from very low and going from house to house to collect donations for the building of the present beautiful church, a landmark in Noida today.

Worshippers collected at the site which once housed a small asbestos roofed shed. Here Rev Massey and his flock would collect regularly on Sunday mornings, to celebrate Holy Communion. The church worked lovingly with an initial small number of parishioners; each member offering his or her mite with their morning prayers from enthusiastic little gifts, to hot cups of homemade tea to be had after service. I repeat, Rev Massey would go from house to house collecting donations, till one day the Bishop laid the foundation stone, and in the following days this truly beautiful church was built, which later included a parsonage and recreation hall.

All this, the hard work of one man and some staunch members. This is a tribute to a far-seeing individual who made our coming to church with comfort and pride; not to mention the spread of the Gospel we'll planted on Indian soil.

Tribute to Rev Col Lawrence Massey

By Manorama Lukose

We will bless the Lord for evermore & praise the Lord with thanksgiving – I first met Rev Col Lawrence Massey at Agra while staying at the army separated family houses with my mother in-law. At that time I was just married for two years, my husband Col Lukose was then a Captain in the army and posted to Jammu & Kashmir and my elder son was just two months old. Rev Col Lawrence Massey was in--charge of the separated family houses back then and one day he came to inquire if the separated families needed any help and that is how we got to know each other. Upon hearing that our family surname is “Lukose” he realized that we were a Christian family, and was very happy, and preferred to call me by my first name Manorama.

I recollect while staying at the separated family houses, the time when one day brother Lawrence came over to our house with his wife Khursheed & their lovely daughter Chitra who was very young, just three or four years old – well this was how I got to know the family.

Time went by and Col Lukose retired from the army, and we settled in Noida and one day when we were out for an evening stroll, we met Mrs. Helen Harrison & recognized each other immediately since we knew each other from Agra being the members of the same church. While chatting and catching up she mentioned that Rev Col Lawrence Massey had also settled in Noida, post his retirement from the services. She told us about the Sunday prayer meeting which Rev Col Lawrence Massey had started from his house, and that is when we met brother Lawrence again the second time after many years since we last met at Agra. When we visited his house for the Sunday prayer with Helen, brother Lawrence & sister Khursheed immediately recognized us and were happy to meet us again after so many years.

Rev Col Lawrence Massey was the first priest who started our church in Noida and I was privileged to decorate the church altar. Brother Lawrence and sister Khursheed loved our family very much and were very close to us. Chitra now a fine young lady went to England for higher studies and both his sons Basel and Austin were already commissioned in the forces as army officers. Brother Lawrence & sister Khursheed were living alone in Noida and during this time sister Khursheed fell sick and brother informed us. Kiran Alex and I rushed to help brother Lawrence and arranged for sister Khursheed to be taken to the hospital, little did we know that her sickness was of a serious nature and would take her away from us to eternal life. Her burial was a solemn one with all their children attending.

Since at that time we did not have a graveyard at Noida, she was taken to the Delhi cemetery and now brother Lawrence also rests in the same grave.

When Col Lukose left us to be with God, though Brother Lawrence was very weak by then and could walk only using his walking stick, used to regularly stop by our house to pray, reading out verses from the Bible. I remember the time well as he would come by our house and sit for a cup of tea and biscuits. When corona came in, things changed and distanced us all and brother fell sick, and telephone call's became the only means by which we could communicate or know about the well-being of each other. I tried to call him many times on his cell, but one day I was lucky as Austin, his elder son, was with him and picked up the phone and I could speak with him and inquire about brother Lawrence.

Brother Lawrence was a Godfearing man, and all his children gave him a befitting burial. May God bless them as God is love. He who dwells in love is dwelling in God and God in him.

Rev Col Lawrence Massey

By Alex C John from Bangalore

The term "**Reverend**" conveys a multiplicity of meanings: mainly an ordained priest, within the Church-the Body of Christ.

Becoming a priest/presbyter is a calling and a Divine "bestowal".

However, to become a reverend in a church one had to undergo a rigorous course of theological training in a seminary. Then you are conferred with the degree of B.D., meaning: Bachelor of Divinity. And the church looks on you and addresses you as Reverend.

The term "**Colonel**" is also concise in its definition. An officer of high rank in the army. A military officer.

Rank and office cannot be bestowed, or given but have to be "earned"

While rigid in its training, becoming a colonel, also has a set discipline, physical training etc.

The robes of a priest and the uniform of an officer are quite intimidating. It is appropriately paradoxical that when the two stand opposite each other, it is the officer that pays respects to the priest.

The hope for end result, for both a reverend and a colonel, is a sense of satisfaction having tried to do your best for your God, and your Country. The rewards are also commensurate. But the necessary hard work is an inherent part of both these regimens.

Which effort our pastor did put in !

With that background let me now proceed to the generality. We had known the family of Rev. Col. Massey since 1987. At that time only their eldest son Austen, also an army officer, was married. Basil, the younger son was also in the army and would shortly be conferred the "Shaurya Chakra". Their daughter, Chitra, though at one time looking to become a marine biologist, found admission to the University of Nottingham, UK, to pursue a course, and subsequent doctorate, in human rights.. These details are drawn from memory and may require up-dating/correcting.

CNI Church, Noida, (named such after Rev. Massey, was appointed Hony. Pastor by Bishop Maqbul Caleb, CNI Bishop of Delhi), was growing. From a little flock of a few families, meeting by a roster, every Sunday in different homes, the congregation has grown to what it is now (2021), having a full-fledged premises. Our home meetings were to begin at 09:00am. **And that meant 9am.** I think we all learnt the value of this from him.

Punctuality in God's house!

Since there was no music accompaniment to the hymn singing, the hymns sung were those that we knew, or could sing. And the favorites were:

Rev Col Lawrence Massey

By Alex C John from Bangalore

- What a friend we have in Jesus
- Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, and,
- Showers of Blessings.

I am not aware what the singing is like now; but then I think we did manage to raise a joyful sound to the Lord then!

Holy Communion was celebrated every Sunday!

Shortly afterwards the name of the Church was changed to the more appropriate "Christ Church", Noida. CNI stands for Church of North India.

Padre Saab's sermons were short and concise (though they could be long occasionally); and to the point. Even though the point being made did hit home sometimes on a tender spot in someone in the congregation.

Having been an army man, that style and bent of life did not die of a sudden in him. He continued to enjoy the company of and socialize with his defense contemporaries.

But I think he was discovering every day, more and more, the joy of serving God. At times he would take me into his library and show me all the books on Christianity and Religion, in two or three languages, that he had accumulated-some of them rare. And he always added that God had been preparing him for ministry in the Church for some time. He even let me use his copy of the English translation of Jerome's Vulgate. He had had three bishops: Maqbul Caleb; Pritam Santram; Karam Masih; and enjoyed an okay sort of camaraderie with them. The ones thereafter I am not familiar with, us having shifted out of Noida.

He was an early to bed, early to rise type. **After 8:30pm; well, it was after 8:30pm !**

He doted on his wife; and his wife doted on their children, spending long hours into the night with them after he had gone to sleep. To some extent I think she had a soft corner for us also, affectionately calling our son with the nickname she had for him.

But their morning walk together was almost a ritual and they began it in the wee hours. So many times, we were still rubbing the sleep out of our eyes and there they were, knocking, and enjoying their morning cuppa with us. Pleasant! Most specially he would share his Bible Study of the previous twenty-four hours with us. He even would humbly add, that your Padre Saab is still also learning!

And they did long, long walks. I think that must have been the time of their special togetherness, one on one. Thereafter the chores of the day kept clamoring attention.

He was delighted at all the professionals that God was adding to the Church along with the others..

He was content in his own achievements, and more so of those of his children. He was proud to have also been a paratrooper, having done his five or so para drops. I may be wrong in some details

Rev Col Lawrence Massey

By Alex C John from Bangalore

He enjoyed his golf and quite frequently ran out of partners to play with. She enjoyed her horse-riding till their retirement and was quite popular within her ladies' group. For him instead of saying "ladies and gentlemen", or "boys and girls"; "young and old", it was simply "chaps". But that's how he was. He was delighted to have served in the army. Where else, he would ask, can you be free, by and large, by mid-afternoon to be able to participate in all the perks and facilities that the defense services had to offer. And all for nominal charges.

After his bereavement at the departure of Mrs. Massey, he had some difficulties in the adjustments. After the initial period of shock and sadness got ameliorated, he began accepting his position, training himself to do some jobs in the kitchen. If I remember correctly, he had also tried his hand at making chapattis at one time, though he was not enamored of it. As Christians we pray Lord God that "His will be done" as taught by our Lord. When it is being done, as in a bereavement, the sooner we accept it, the quicker will the balm be applied.

Our actual period of acquaintance with Rev. Massey, and his family, dates circa 1987-2004; when we moved out of Noida. Thereafter there was not much communication and contact except for a brief few hours when they'd (Rev. Massey, Chitra, and Ahana) come to Bangalore, for some work, and we were able to meet them where they were staying. And enjoy their pleasant company. Still later, on Chitra's posting to Tanzania, he had once or twice repeated his invitation to us to visit them there. As did Chitra also. Que sera sera ! It was not to be!

We have pleasant memories of the man, the husband, the father, the grand-father, the army officer, the pastor. Also of an amiable host whenever we visited him. Memories are what make us. It is well that we remember all the good, **(it will be like wine to the soul)**, and learn to teach and train ourselves to discard and ignore all that are not so good, **(these can be persistent and evil and decay the soul)**.

In the final analysis of what I have written above, which other members may also have experienced, I hope that you will remember: Rev. Col. Lawrence Massey with fondness and fairness. Your ownership of such remembering will always bring you peace.

Conclusion!

As I conclude I would like to add a prayer for you all in these horrible and uncertain days of the pandemic of the corona virus that continues invading our world, since Oct. 2019, in different phases. Its horrific mutations; and its horrendous devastation of human life, and normal human living globally.

Be strong and of a good cheer and keep yourself motivated with prayer to the Lord Jesus, who is not only for us but with us and has overcome the world.

Be strong in hope, faith, and love, remembering that love is the greatest virtue.

"Turn your eye upon, Jesus, look full on His wonderful face,
And the things of earth, will grow strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace."

God so, so loves us!



Tribute to Rev Col Lawrence Massey

By Church Members

Very very sad news. His greatness in keeping the Jesus' flock of Christ Church Noida will be remembered forever. Rest in Perfect Peace, the most revered Pastor - **Dr Helen Sekar**

Our heartfelt condolences for all family members of our very dear Rev(Col) Massey on his sad sad demise. For me, he was not only the founder Presbyter in charge of Christ Church, but he was also responsible to a great extent that we started the construction of this lovely house of The God Almighty, the Christ Church Noida. He imposed full confidence in me and with the short time frame and shortage of funds we got on with God's grace to complete the first and main phase of our Church. He will be missed a lot by many of us. Pray to our God Almighty to grant the noble soul perfect eternal peace. May He also grant strength and courage to all family members to bear the irreplaceable loss. Amen - **Colonel Parvez David Shah**

Indeed a shocking most distressing news about the passing away of Reverend Colonel Lawrence Massey, the founding Pastor of CCN. He will always be revered and remembered for his sterling contribution by ensuring that the first CNI Church was consecrated in Noida. May his noble soul rest in eternal Peace at the Heavenly abode. - **Rear Adml Sushil Ramsay**

Very sad indeed; our first pastor. May his soul rest in peace - **Ruth Nath**

Extremely sad to learn about the demise of our founding Pastor, Reverend Lawrence Massey. It was certainly his strong vision and persistent gentle push which brought a place to gather for the church to praise and worship in NOIDA. May the LORD of peace and comfort, console and strengthen the family at this time of grief. We have many memorable occasions with him starting from the morning, he visited our home to ask us to be part of his vision, which was an honour and we most gladly accepted, thereafter, two of us sometimes visiting NOIDA CEO'S office for allotment of plot, etcetera etcetera. Certainly a piece of painful news. I am deeply grieved. Our deepest condolences to the bereaved family - **Rohit, Reeta David & family**

Extolling the finest of human qualities and exemplary lifestyle of our Founder Presbyter Revd Col Lawrence Massey will just be a repetition of what everyone knows. He was truly a Man of God gifted by Him to us, the CCN Congregation in NOIDA. Indeed he will always be in the hearts and minds of all those who knew him. At this time our prayers are for Chitra, Austen, Basil and their extended families. May God grant them to accept their loss which we share as God's Holy Will. It's a blessed assurance that he is now with our Lord - **Vice Adml. H. Johnson**

Rev Col Lawrence Massey

By Church Members

My first interaction with Late Rev. Col. Lawrence Massey happened perhaps, in the year 1999 or 2000. I was driving past the church around 11 AM when one day, when Rev. Massey, who was standing outside the gate, flagged me to a stop. I got out and wished him. The first thing I asked him was how I should address him, as Col. Massey or as Rev. Massey. He said Col. comes only after the Reverend, therefore, Reverend is the right salutation. That gave me a clear indication of his deep-rooted commitment in serving our Lord Jesus Christ. As others have testified, his Calling came much ahead in time while he was still serving in the Indian Army. He kept up his commitment even after he retired from his position as the Presbyterian-in-charge of CCN.

I have been attending services almost every Sunday, usually sitting in the rear pew and getting out quickly, as no one chose to speak to me. However, he told me he had noticed me, and I should apply for membership (which I did promptly). We did a bit of chit chat, all about his theological education and about me and my family.

Paul wrote to the church in Corinth, "Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize?" Rev. Col. Massey walked into eternity with the prize - **Anand Peter**

Rev Col. Lawrence Massey was a special person in our Church in Noida. I joined the church towards the time when Pastor Paul had just arrived and had taken over from Rev. Col. Lawrence. When in town, he would sometimes preach. And I remember he would always do so from the Marble elevated pulpit .. and not the wooden one, which Pastor Paul preferred. I enjoyed knowing Rev. Lawrence outside the Church. We would sometimes meet when he would be out on his morning walk. He was very disciplined about it. Dressed in the latest tracksuits, and a lovely cap .. we would sometimes walk and talk. And the talks would be expansive - about his travels, his children, his grandchildren; very loving and caring. He was always so proud of his children, and it was a joy to listen to him. I always found Rev Lawrence fiercely independent. And quite plain-speaking too. In his Punjabi way, he would say what was on his mind. He had a favourite pew in the Church. I will miss him. - **Luke Chandekar**.

Sad news - RIP Rev Col Lawrence Massey. May God give strength to the family to bear this loss...his life's race is well run, life's work well done - **Anjali Brown**

Col Lawrence Massey! What can I say? Had it not been for this sincere dedicated soul, Noida would not have had a CNI church so soon. It was his initiative, his drive, his motivation that made us rally around him to make our dreams come to fruition. The good Lord brought him to us and gave him the strength and perseverance and above all the persistence to face all the many challenges and eventually make his endeavours worthwhile. We thank God for the service of Col Massey in Christ Church, Noida. He will be remembered with respect and affection. May his soul rest in peace - **D A Tressler**

Tribute to Rev Col Lawrence Massey

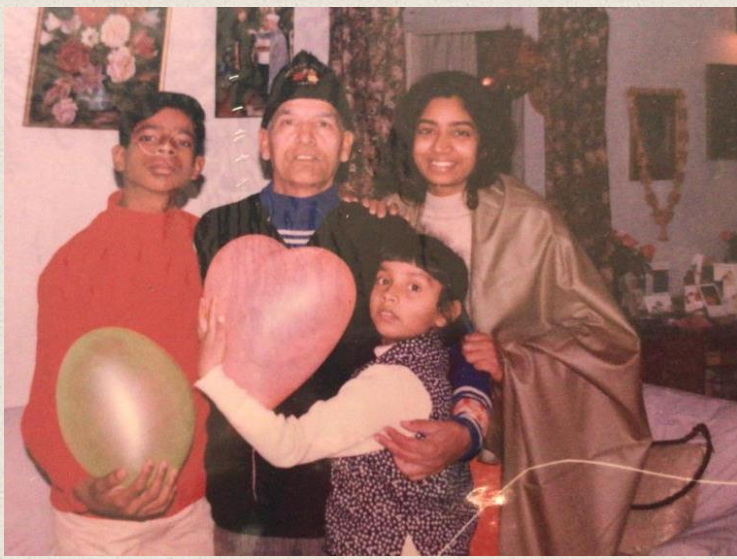
By Col. Shah

I have had a long and close association with our dear Late Rev. Col. Lawrence Massey which started in 1990 when I was posted in Delhi and lived in my house in 29 Sector of Noida. Thereafter I was posted out in 1992 and came back on retirement during March 1996. Then on we were in constant touch as we were planning and working on the starting of construction of our proper church building. While planning was going on, Rev. Massey was constantly appealing and motivating our small congregation of only 49 families. The result was that our congregation was working day and night to collect and contribute towards the Construction of new church building. In addition the drive for funds collection was organized and led by Rev. Massey, Vice Adml. Johnson, Cdr. N. A. Muller worth, Mr. K. B. Lal, Wg.Cdr. and Mrs. Kamna Cowasjee, Dr. Matthews, Col. & Mrs. Lukose, Maj. Gen. Diol, Mr. & Mrs. Rohit David and Mr. & Mrs. Alex John . It was also fully supported by each and every member of the Church family.

In the meanwhile Rev. Col. Lawrence Massey recommended to the pastorate committee that as we cannot afford to engage a composite contractor because they charge very high and have their own profit of 20-25%. He recommended to the Pastorate Committee that we will hire our labour contractor for the complete project and Col. Parvez Shah who is an experienced and qualified Civil Engineer will oversee and organize the complete requirements and execution of the project work. It was approved by the Pastorate Committee and with God's grace and Rev. Massey's extreme faith and confidence in the help and guidance from our Almighty God with only Rs. 3.17 Lakh in our bank account, church fund as against the estimated cost of more that 16-18 Lakhs for the complete Phase I of the project, the construction work for the House of our Lord God Almighty started in April 1997. Here it is mentioned that it is most commendable on the part of our dear Late Rev. Col. Lawrence Massey and the supporting team that today we are having a beautiful Christ Church Noida complex. It was Rev. Col. Lawrence Massey's complete faith and determination in the service of our Lord God Almighty and His blessing that we started the construction of our church despite acute shortage of funds and some members of the church having of the opinion that we should start the construction work only after we have collected sufficient funds. So many times we did not have money to pay for our material suppliers and labour constructors, but with God's grace there was never a hold up in our work even for a single day.

In the end I would say that but for our dear Rev. Col. Lawrence Massey's full faith and unquestionable confidence in the blessings of our Almighty God, our project Christ Church Noida would have delayed a lot or derailed on administrative grounds. Praise the Lord for all His blessings, help & guidance, looking for this project till date. God bless all his family members abundantly.

Amen!



With Chitra and Ahana



Top of St George's



In Tanzania



With Tania



Rev Col L Massey here, with Max

Editorial Team



Shefali John



Alex John

Front Cover



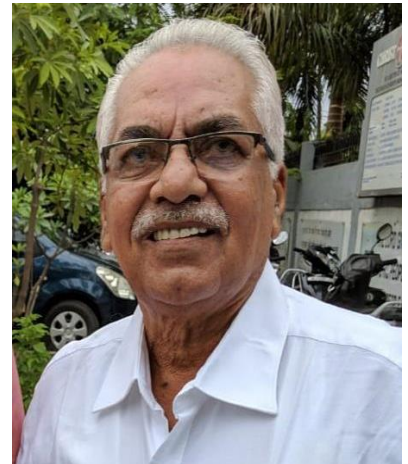
Stuti Titus

Content Coordinator



Christy Franklin

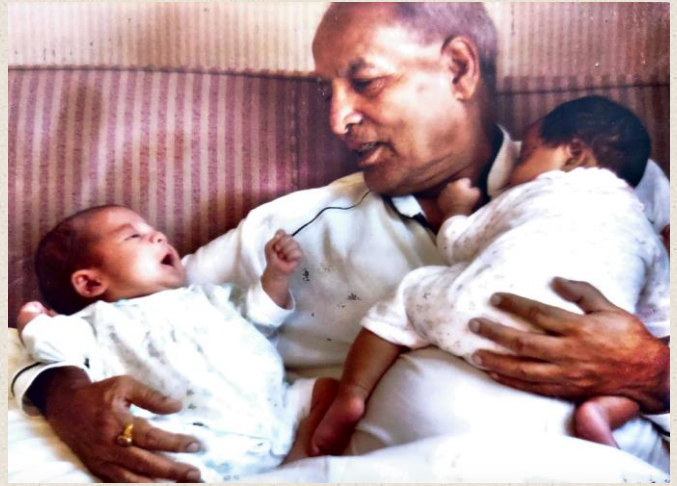
Consulting Editor

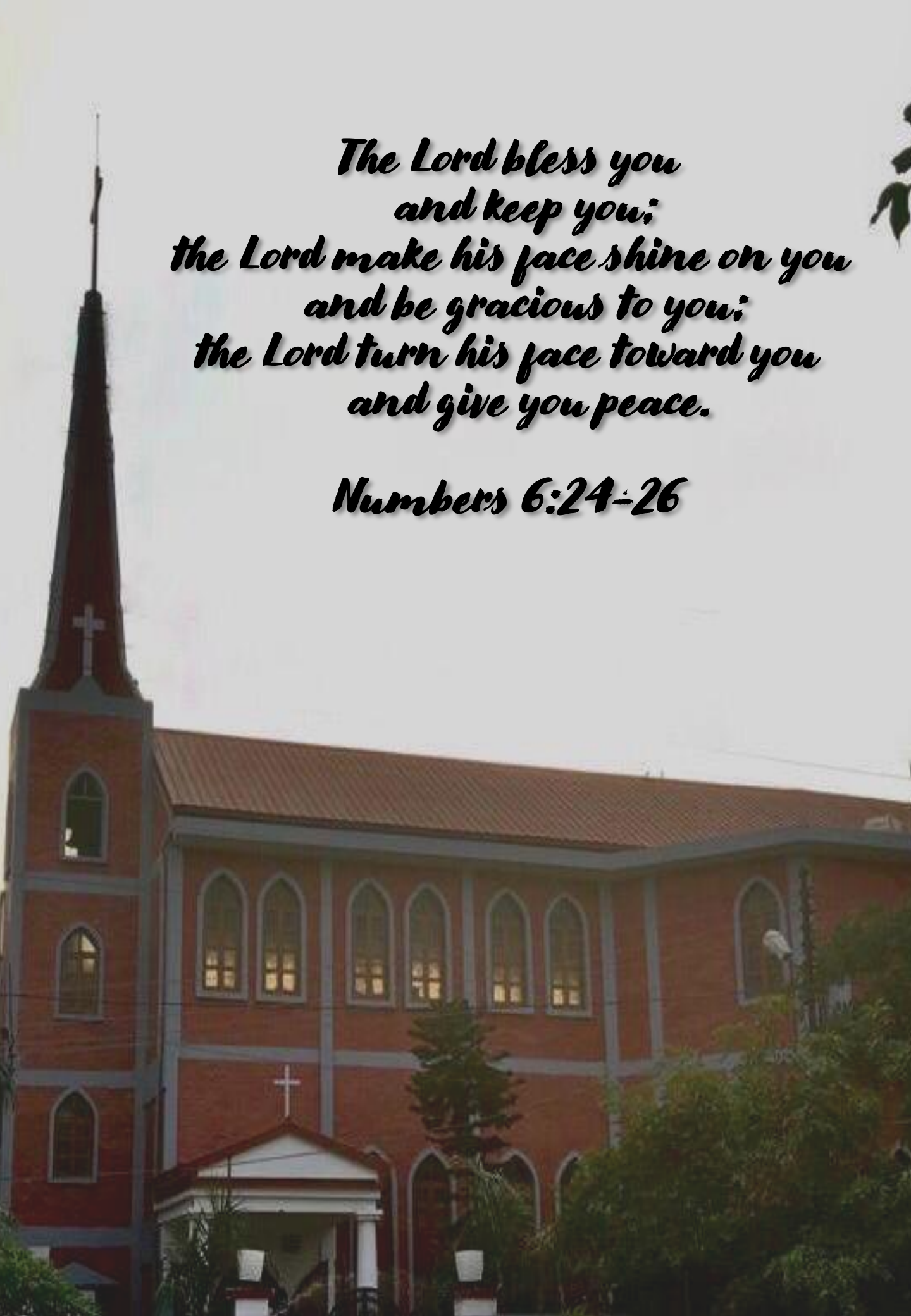


Anandkumar Peter

The Editorial team is especially thankful to Mrs. Kamna Cowasjee for contacting members and collating tributes from many for this edition of eScroll





A photograph of a red brick church with a tall steeple and arched windows. The church is the background for the text. The steeple is on the left side, and the main body of the church is in the center and right. The windows are arched and some are lit up. There are trees in the foreground on the right side.

*The Lord bless you
and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace.*

Numbers 6:24-26