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# The e-Scroll



**Christ Church Noida Youth Edition  
August 2020**



So do not fear, for I am with you;  
do not be dismayed, for I am  
your God.

I will strengthen you and  
help you;

I will uphold you with my  
righteous right hand.

Isaiah 41: 10





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# Pastor's Message

By Revd. Sandeep David



Quite unexpectedly God gave me the opportunity to serve the beautiful congregations at Christ Church Noida and Greater Noida first as the Associate Presbyter and now as the Presbyter-in-charge – the honour bestowed upon an undeserving minister of God. His blessings usually come when least expected. Before this, I had served in different capacities in Delhi and Haryana in five parishes that included seven congregations. He has been gracious and has accompanied His servant to minister to His people. These years have been full of challenges and difficulties which were richly compensated by His unconditional grace and presence. Even as I take charge of CCN and CCGN to serve Him and His people as the Presbyter-in-charge I look forward to the support of this godly congregation. Understandably, we all have weaknesses but when we come together as a body of Christ we complement each other to serve God better.

Let us return to God

This pandemic is taking its toll on peoples' mental health and causing some to get depressed and unhappy. We need to remember, there is someone who stands by us even in this difficult time. When social distancing has become a norm, our God accompanies us in the darkest hours. After every night there is a bright morning. Babylonian captivity was the result of Israel forgetting their Creator. Maybe we too, need to pause and reflect what we have done to instigate the fury of God.

God's people are called not only to pray for themselves but also to pray for the world. God is faithful and stays true to His promises. This is the time to reflect and to thank God for His mercies. Have we thought how privileged we were before the pandemic? Did we thank Him for the blessings, the freedom that we had before the pandemic? I believe more than the days of punishment these are the days to repent and to experience His grace. God will intervene. Days are challenging and discouraging but remember that those who trust the Creator will soar like eagles. People of God must encourage each other and the world with Ps. 91 which says, "No pestilence shall come near your dwelling place". Trust God, claim His promises and follow His ways these testing times will turn into a testimony. God bless us!

With prayers,  
Rev. Sandeep David  
Presbyter in charge  
Christ Church Noida and Greater Noida  
Diocese of Delhi  
Church of North India



# Associate Pastor's Message

By Revd. Augustine Simon

*No Fear for God's People*

Isaiah 41:10

**(This verse gives reassurance by God, primarily to the exiled Jews during their long and painful captivity in Babylonia).**

Today many people are afraid of the future and they have many reasons for being so. Some fear communism, landowners may fear land reform movements, small nations may fear attack by powerful nations. Those in government jobs may fear a revolution; Factory or office workers are afraid to lose their jobs; farmers fear bad harvest; students fear failing in exams, couple's fear that their partner may get tired of him/her; parents may fear the day when their children grow up and leave home etc.



At the starting of every year, we say '**I wonder what this year will bring?** None of us expected that 2020 would bring disaster in the form of COVID-19. This pandemic has caused global socio-economic disruptions affecting millions of people worldwide. It has led to the deferral and/or even cancellation of sporting, religious, political and cultural events. Schools, universities and colleges have been shut down. We witnessed a sharp rise in unemployment, a decrease in government income and collapse of industries. The outcome of the pandemic shows the decrease in consumer activity and so on. The economic impact of the Corona Virus has been largely disruptive. The disease has shattered lives, disrupted markets and caused economic damage through multiple channels. The pandemic has brought the global world into lockdown for the past many months.

In the light of this ongoing pandemic, the Prophetic book of Isaiah Chapter 41:10, brings to our notice that God knew we would struggle with fear, so the verse begins with '**Fear not**' – a point made again and again in this verse, indicates that we should not be afraid as children of God, because of the promise made by God "**I am with you**" which points to the very presence of God in our lives and that He is the only Lord God of all generations. He is the great '**I am**' who alone can give strength and help to His servants; to face the uncertainties of the future. Therefore, we need not look anxiously around for aid because our Almighty God will stand by His promise.

Dear Friends, God is our ever-present help in times of trouble – then why should we fear, if God is for us. Trust what God said in Isaiah 41:10. It is a well-guaranteed promise to all of God's people in similar circumstances, and is true now as it was then, that those whom God has chosen have nothing to fear.

***"For it is the Sovereign Lord who controls nations and kings and directs them to carry out his orders."***



# Loving the Church

By Anandkumar Peter

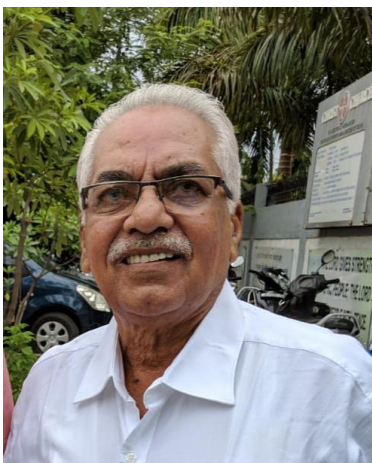
Loving the Church, the Universal Body of Christ often seems close to impossible. Still, we must keep reminding ourselves that all people in the Church- whether powerful or powerless, conservative or progressive, tolerant or fanatic, rich or poor, black or white-belong to that long line of witnesses moving through this valley of tears, singing songs of praise and thanksgiving, listening to the voices of their Lord, and eating together from the bread that keeps multiplying as it is shared. When we remember that, we may be able to say, "I love the Church, and I am glad to belong to it."

Loving the Church is our sacred duty. Without a true love for the Church, we cannot live in it in joy and peace. And without true love for the Church, we cannot call people to it, as mandated of every faithful.

Loving the Church does not require romantic emotions. It requires the will to see the living Christ among His people and to love them as we want to love Jesus Himself. This is true not only for the 'little'-the poor, the oppressed, the forgotten- but also for the "big" people who exercise authority in the Church.

To love the Church means to be willing to meet Jesus wherever we go in the Church and even outside of it. This love doesn't mean agreeing with or approving of everyone's ideas or behaviour. On the contrary, it can call us to confront those who hide Christ from us. But whether we confront or affirm, criticise or praise, we can only become fruitful when our words and actions come from hearts that love the Church.

Finally, from a global perspective, Jesus through His ministry and teachings have told us that every person, those who had known Him or those are yet to know Him are His people. He died for all. That being so, our love for Church should begin with our love for all whom we come across. It is also important to think about the Church not as 'something over there' but as a community of struggling, weak people of whom we are part and in whom we meet our Lord and Redeemer, Jesus Christ.



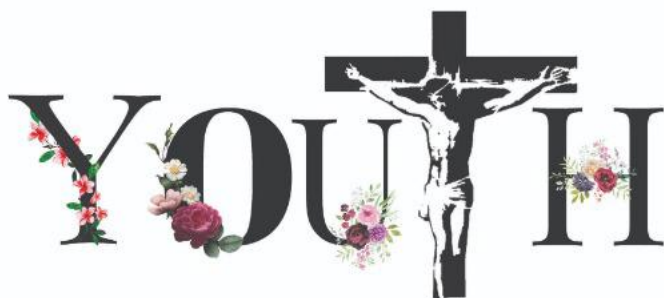
## About the writer:

**Anandkumar Peter**, our consulting Editor and one of our senior learned members. Peter Uncle, as we lovingly call him played Harmonica and Hawaiian Guitar during his school and college days. He's also skilled at target shooting and photography. Peter Uncle also loves to indulge in cooking exotic dishes and caring for stray animals!



# Youth Fellowship, Christ Church Noida

By Shefali John



**Youth!** We must understand this period of life, between childhood and adulthood, as defined by the transition from parental dependence to relative autonomy. Adolescence years are often categorized as a risk factor, something to be “managed” or “controlled”. This is where we as Christ Church Noida, hope to aid in shaping the young and brittle minds of our young adults to help them become pillars of God’s Church and leaders of the future. Having been a member of the Youth Fellowship of Christ Church Noida for over 10 years now, I can say that our Youth Fellowship has experienced God’s endless grace and goodness and has been a great source of blessing for everyone involved in it.

As a young people’s ministry, we oftentimes are faced with challenges such as communication gaps between the young people in a congregation and the seniors. At times we also come face to face with a harsh reality of an inactive youth fellowship in a church. As rebellious and misunderstood young people can be perceived to be, the vision of Christ Church Noida has always been to encourage our young adults to come forward and engage with a congregation which is both welcoming as well as constructively critical at the same time. My tenure as Youth Fellowship President started in the summer of 2019 and upfront, we started with some projects.

- We as a group began meeting in church every once a month regularly to study the Bible and to better understand what our faith in Christ demands out of our daily lives. These Bible Studies were headed by Felix John and details of which you will find further along in this newsletter.
- We stuck to our monthly schedule of Praise & Worship every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month and singing together for our Lord gave each one of us immense joy.
- We engaged with different sections of our congregation. Youth has been deeply involved with Greater Noida youth and its congregation as well as various groups and fellowships in CCN
- Our deep sense of encouragement stems from opportunities given to organise and execute retreats for our congregation on special days.

Additionally Greater Noida Youth has been participating in similar activities under the guidance of Mr. Ebenezer and Mrs. Asma Sona:

- Every Second and Fourth Sunday the praise and worship is conducted by the youth, the second scripture reading is done every Sunday by the youth members
- Every Sunday two members of the Youth help in conducting the Sunday School and teach young children new songs and biblical stories



# Youth Fellowship, Christ Church Noida

Amongst other things, the Youth of Christ Church Noida and Greater Noida hope to achieve the following goals:

- A purpose and faith-driven life.
- To participate in healthy skilful activities to lead the church in faith and impact the community around.
- Be a witness to Christ and empower young people to take up more responsibilities in the Christian community and celebrate their uniqueness.

In our early adulthood years, as we learn to be responsible citizens of our country, we hope to also be responsible members of God's church throughout the world. In this competitive world where every young individual is either too engrossed in their professional lives or somehow cannot "find the time" to come to church, we hope for our young people to experience salvation through Jesus Christ and to bear witnesses to His Glory and Kingdom.

We don't believe in the proverbial generation gap. We believe in our relationships with children to elders to work through our Lord Jesus Christ, in a spiritually transparent manner. To our senior members, elders and readers, I would request you to reach out to these young people, engage them in a conversation which challenges them, encourage them to seek the truth about Jesus, and help them discover a beautiful and fulfilling personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Much Love,  
Shefali John  
President, Youth Fellowship  
Christ Church NOIDA

# कोवीड के लिए प्रार्थना

By Nelson Runda

हे भगवान, हमारे मरहम लगाने वाले, शरण और शक्ति, COVID 19 के लिए हमारी चिंता में, क्या हम लोगों और पर्यावरण के स्वास्थ्य को प्राथमिकता देने के लिए सबक सीख सकते हैं ताकि हम अनजान और अप्रभावित न रहें।

हम अपने घर के संगरोध में मौन और एकांत के लिए समय निकालें, प्रार्थना, गहन शांति, के माध्यम से अपने आध्यात्मिक ज्ञान को गहरा करें,

एक दूसरे के बोझ को सहन करने और खुद को आपसे दूर करने के हमारे पापों के लिए हमें क्षमा करें,

आप ही हमारे उद्धारकर्ता, जीवित जल का स्रोत, विश्व का प्रकाश, पुनरुत्थान और जीवन हैं।

हे प्रभु हमें अपनी बुद्धि और कृपा प्रदान करे जिसे हम आनन्दित हों और हमें ये महसूस हो कि हम ऐसे समय में अकेले नहीं हैं। आप हमारी आशा और ताकत हैं। आमीन।



## About the writer:

**Nelson Runda**, quiet soul at heart and always there to help anyone who needs it. A regular churchgoer, Nelson can often be seen serving at the altar most Sundays. He actively takes part in church youth activities. He loves listening to music and play football and cricket.





# Can I “do all things through Christ?”

By Kevin Franklin

**W**hile I was young, I never faced any major hardships or challenges in my life. Thankfully, I led a very peaceful and content life. But as I grew up, things started to change, especially when I entered my last two years of high school. I had selected a stream which was very difficult and tough for me. Sometimes, I was not able to cope with my studies and a sense of fear started growing inside me, leaving me feeling helpless most the time. Even though I was born and brought up in a Christian and God-fearing family, my faith significantly wavered during that time.

But one day, I sat down to read my Bible, and I came across a verse which specifically caught my eye; “*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*” (Philippians 4:13) And instantly, I thought to myself, can I do ALL things through Christ? As I continued to read further, God showed me so many more verses and instances that became a source of Hope for me. I ended my reading session with a heartfelt prayer that day, pleading God to take over my life and to provide me with everything that I had been missing in my life. And since that day, things have only gone uphill. I’ve excelled in my studies with outstanding grades. I went out of town for my higher studies and was able to adapt to the new place and complete my graduation there.

“

***So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.***

**Isaiah 41:10**

”

This is another verse that stands out to be a great source of hope for us, especially during recent times, where the world is facing a major global crisis due to COVID–19. We can see that the Lord has been providing us with strength to overcome all the mental, physical and emotional problems that we all are going through. We are all away from our friends and relatives, we are unable to meet them or spend time with them, it is very normal for any human to lose hope and be distressed. But God has constantly been with us through this time and has been providing us with the strength to carry on. We ought not be dismayed but rather be thankful to God, as it is only through Him that we could make it this far.

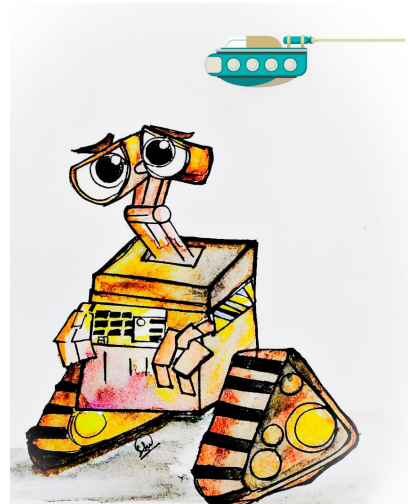
# Can I “do all things through Christ?”

Another important aspect that I’ve come to realize during the Covid-19 crisis is that, we always ought to be Content. In his letter to the Philippian Church, Paul says that the believer’s experience of either ‘want’ or ‘satisfaction’ is ultimately an internal rather than an external reality. *“I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.”* (Philippians 4:11) The secret, he explains, is *Contentment*. In the original language, this word indicates “self-sufficiency” or “independence.” It’s the ability to “make do” in all kinds of situations. Paul says that when we have Christ, we have everything. That being said, it doesn’t really matter if we’re rich or poor, successful or defeated, starving or full, naked or clothed, homeless or sheltered. Especially in our current situation, we need to learn to be content with what we have, to be grateful for all that He has blessed us with. Paul had personally experienced hardships multiple times. What he is asserting here is that, if we belong to Christ, He will enable us to bear our burdens, whatever they might be. And so, I am confident enough to say that God has been providing for me, and I am sure that all of us will receive the strength to face all the challenges that life throws at us.



## About the writer:

**Kevin Franklin, is** a recent B.Tech graduate and had been mostly away from home living in Coimbatore for higher studies. He would describe himself as an introvert but loves to participate in church activities as an act of service. He enjoys assisting Alwyn Theodore in all our sound and technical issues. Kevin often sings with the youth group and is a great football enthusiast!





# FEAR NOT! - Editorial

By Asma Sona



*Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

*Isaiah 41:10*



This Passage is underlined in my Bible, probably in yours too, and I have read it so many times. It has always given me hope that no matter what, the Lord will carry me, hold me and sustain me with His righteous hand.

The prophet here is conveying this message from God to the people of Israel who were expelled from their homeland, taken into captivity, and were living in exile in a foreign land. God's words were meant to comfort and encourage the faith of His people in distress. The significance of these words is evident in the fact that Isaiah mentions it not just once but thrice in the same chapter: Do not fear (Isa 41:10). Do not fear (Isa 41:13). Do not fear (Isa 41:14).

Honestly, during the initial days, I did not take the virus as seriously. Like many others, I assumed that this was yet another new flu. It would come and go and would not impact me in any real way. But over the recent past months, one cannot read the news without the mention of COVID-19 pandemic. We read or hear words like 'global pandemic', 'quarantine', 'lockdown', 'travel restrictions', 'total death toll', 'declining economy', 'online classes', 'work from home', etc. This unprecedented situation has become the central focus of the whole world. Everything feels chaotic, uncertain and gloomy.

Amid all this God knows our human tendencies and He cares about every kind of fear that we may face. In the Bible, we find commands and words of encouragement like take courage, fear not, etc. more than 300 times. God does not expect us to be consumed by fear. And yet, our fears do not surprise him. We need to realize God is not disappointed in us when we are afraid. He simply encourages us to not fear and trust in His presence and know that He is listening and working on our behalf.

# FEAR NOT! - Editorial

Feelings of frustration and depression are valid but feeling hopeful that this too shall end will help us sail through these difficult times. **Research has proven that hope is the most powerful remedy for fear.**

In uncertain times, we must be certain about one very important Biblical truth: “I the Lord do not change.” (Malachi 3:6). You can depend on the promises of our unchanging God. They are relevant even during these troubled times. I, therefore, encourage you to put your trust in Him today. Our situation might be different from the Israelites but the promise is for all to trust in His name.

In these challenging times, we tend to panic by relying on our capabilities and the things of this earth instead of trusting in our God. I encourage us all to take this time to refocus our hearts and minds in the right direction firstly in and through prayers as they have the power to change, and then through reading the word of God “**So then faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of Christ.**” (Romans 10:17). Faith brings assurance that God is on the move, and that assurance gives us peace. God expects us to have faith in Him during sunshine and in rain, come what may. Our faith in God is not only meant to hold us steadfast during times of trouble but is also meant to be a source of blessing for others. Remember that the Church is the most powerful agent to bring hope and peace in this world. In Jesus’ words, **The gates of hell shall not prevail against it.** (Matthew 16:18).

Finally, dear people of God, do not fear “**Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts**” (Colossians 3:15).



## About the writer:

**Asma Sona**, an active member of our Greater Noida congregation, Asma leads the Youth Group as an advisor in Greater Noida. She helps in organizing youth events and enables them to execute plans. Asma enjoys singing and reading engrossing books!





# Life of John Allen Chau

By Alex John



**M**ost of us may know the story of John Allen Chau, the 27-year-old American born Christian missionary who took a ride with the local fisherman to India's North Sentinel Island, home to a tribe of hunter-gatherers, who are cut off from the outside world. The Sentinelese people inhabiting the Island are known as the world's most isolated tribe.

John was killed by unknown members of this tribe when he reportedly paid some fishermen to smuggle him into the Island so that he could share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the inhabitants of this Island. John knew the hostile nature of the tribe towards people coming from outside. In one of John's diary entry dated November 2018, he tells how a boy from the Island attempted to shoot him down while he preached in his kayak during his initial attempts to contact them.

After John's death, the story made headlines for several days around the world, and a debate started within the Christian community – "to what extent should one go in spreading the Gospel". When I read the story, I couldn't stop myself from asking this question – 'what drove this young man to travel halfway around the world and do something seemingly as ridiculous as this, knowing the full extent of the danger that he was getting himself into.'

From all the articles I read, Allen Chau came across as someone who loved God and loved people and had the desire to spread the Gospel. In one of his notes, he wrote, "I think I could be more useful alive...but to you, God, I give all the glory of whatever happens". The night before he was set to go to the Island, he wrote a letter to his parents. "you guys might think I'm crazy in all this, but I think it is worth it to declare Jesus to these people" he said.

He also goes on to say, "Please do not be angry at them or at God if I get killed. Rather, Please live your lives in obedience to whatever he has called you to do and I'll see you again when you pass through the veil. This is not a pointless thing. The eternal lives of this tribe are at hand and I can't wait to see them around the throne of God worshipping in their own language, as Revelations 7: 9-19 says".

Romans 10:14 finally provided the answer to my question;

*"But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?"*

# Creative Board

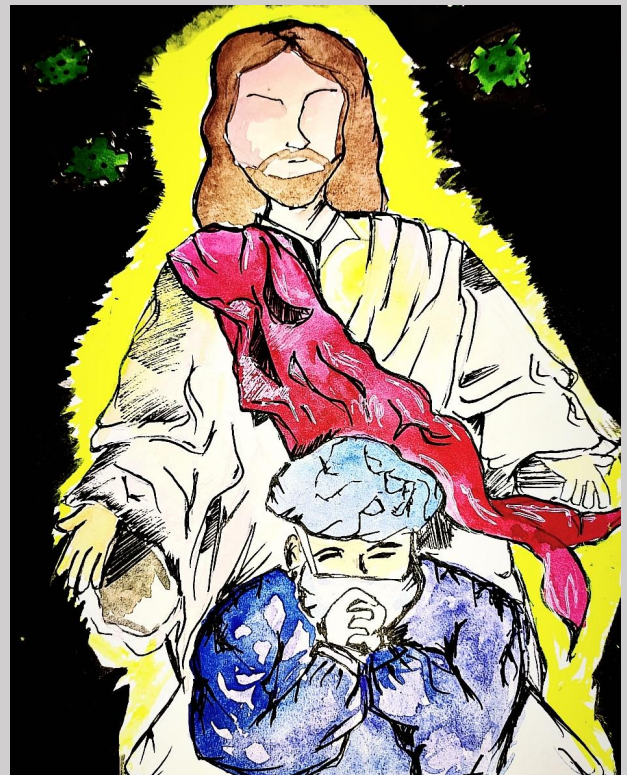


Artwork by:

**Suzanna Rabindran**, a quiet soul but one of our finest young members. Suzanna loves to express herself with her art and enjoys reading and baking with her mum!

Artwork by:

**Andrew Gardner**, joins our Greater Noida congregation. 'Andy' is not only a great artist but also a natural singer. He loves gaming and traveling to explore new places!



Artwork by:

**Stuti Titus**, currently studying English Hons, Stuti describes herself as a hardcore introvert who turns into a hyperactive extrovert around her friends. Stuti loves all forms of art from choreography to poetry.



# Delhi-Sweden-Delhi – ‘A tell all’

A testimony by Philip Nath

"Final boarding call for flight number 695 to Gothenburg" bellowed on the P. A system at IGI, T-3. It was a foggy, typical 'Dilli ki Sardi' morning in November 2014. As I sat there with my baggage (both emotional and actual) I wondered what the future held in store for me. I had just bid farewell to my parents, I didn't shed a tear, nor did I turn back to glance at them. I got on the flight, my eyes were dry, and my soul was numb. My first international flight, shouldn't I be happy? exited? something? But I felt nothing! This was the beginning of a new chapter of my life and the end of a four year-long long-distance relationship with my girlfriend, that we had "managed". We were finally going to meet. And make it "real".



Today, I wish to share with you my testimony and how GOD rescued me and brought me 'HOME' - in every sense of the word.

My initial experience was good- new location, clean roads, fresh air and most importantly, I had someone I could share my life with (or so I thought). As in any other relationship, we had our ups and downs and I coped with it, hoping for better times, whenever the downs became more frequent. But my second year in Sweden and I came home one day and suddenly it was OVER! No warning, no signs, nothing. I was asked to move out and I had one week to do so.

So there I was, all alone in a strange land, wrenched out of my comfort zone, so much in shock that it felt like a dream (Correction-it was a nightmare). By GOD's grace I found a room on sharing basis and a lonely guilt and grief-ridden life began.

During this time I was working two jobs simultaneously, working both day and night shifts and getting maybe four hours of sleep every day. Consequently, God and church took a backseat. I think in the four years that I was in Sweden I went to church maybe only five times in total. Both my jobs were tedious and involved me being physically active throughout the day. My tiny frail body could only handle so much, so ending the day with a cold beer was a daily ritual. As I would soon realise, alcohol and loneliness are a deadly combination. One beer turned to two and before I knew, I was day-drinking. I slowly lost my already small appetite. I couldn't focus on my work and two months later I lost one of my jobs, which was the highest paying of the two, because I was always late, and tardiness was not something easily tolerated in Sweden. My finances took a major hit and I was barely able to afford rent, let alone buy the weekly groceries. Mom's delicious biryani and all her home-cooked meals that I once took for granted, seemed like a distant dream. I used to boil huge batches of macaroni (the cheapest item on the aisle) and ate plain macaroni with ketchup for four months straight.

# Delhi-Sweden-Delhi – ‘A tell all’

I had hit rock bottom –I was alone, lonely and broke. I had given up hope, I became angry – at God!! Why did he do this to me? Why did he make the idea of moving to Sweden seem so perfect? That night, I hit the bottle, I drank till I was numb – as I was passing out, I prayed for a sign-or death. BANG!! A loud crash woke me, my eyes flickered as they readjusted to the daylight beaming in from the windows. I awoke and found myself on the bathroom floor and had the towel rack not fallen, you would probably not be reading this article right now. God had woken me up! He cared! Even for a sinner like me! He woke me up from my slumber, he woke me up from a life of sin! It became clear to me now; GOD WAS CALLING ME HOME!

A month later, I was back in India. The circumstances in Sweden had sucked the happiness out of me. I was crushed, shattered and tired. God then called me to church to serve Him. Suddenly it was clear as day! I saw the bigger picture; I saw God’s plan for me. He wanted me back in the fold. Through these four brutal years in Sweden He showed me (however painfully) how a God-less life is like. I served faithfully in Church for six months (the guy that sat near the coffee machine). I dedicated my life to God, to serve only Him and He showed me the way.

Today I work as the P.A to the principal in a top school. I have been sober for over a year (and plan to stay so!). I can honestly say that I am happy-I am home -and I am His.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, I want all of you to know that God has a plan for you! He sometimes puts you through hell in order to make a place for you in heaven. You may feel sometimes that you are stuck in a caved-in tunnel with no way out, but believe you me, God is on the other side-shovel in hand, digging away and you will see the light again. If I could be saved- anyone can!

Stay safe, stay strong and keep fighting! May God bless you all!!



## About the writer:

**Philip Nath**, one of our senior Youth members and a vital part of our wider fellowship. Philip is the man behind our church service presentation. He loves photography and cheering up people. If you hear a group of people laughing their heads off, know that Philip is around!





# Youth Bible Study

By Felix John



*But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.*

**2 Peter 3:18**



**When** we are walking with our God and Saviour, every day in our lives, we yearn to grow in the **‘Grace and Knowledge’** of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, through the word of God as given to us. As every word touches our hearts and minds, as the Psalmist said, it becomes a lamp to our feet which guides us in our lives and is a light to our path ahead in our life to fulfil God’s plan for our lives.

This very thought was the key foundation which brought the Youth of our Church together to embrace and immerse in THIS **‘fountain of life’** with the launch of Youth Bible Study for Christ Church Noida.

Our Lord and Saviour blessed me with this opportunity to lead the Bible Study Group for our Youth. The fervour of the young adults was overwhelming, which ensured I spend much time meditating on the word of God with a view we have a fruitful discussion which brings glory to Jesus Christ. It was heartening to see the youth had such clear, and original thoughts and expectations from the study which pivoted our sessions besides being interactive the participants could relate to the topics studied.

Some of the expectations which were called out by the Youth: *Better Understanding, Simplified, Relevant to current times, Applicability in Life, How to handle situations confidently with the word of God, Love and Live the word of God without offending anyone.*

With the build-up of such passion amongst the youth, it was imperative to commence the study with the theme, **‘Gods Love for You’**, and build up the foundation on the Love that Our God and Saviour has for us. Which becomes a stepping-stone for our lifelong journey with God.

As we progressed for subsequent studies multiple themes were picked which gave the study group a deeper understanding of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, His teachings, His ways, His conduct, His wisdom, His power and above all His unshakable love for us, which was discussed and understood about its applicability, relevance to current times, use the word of God to elevate ourselves in our journey with God and consequently live the word of God.

# Youth Bible Study



Class in session!

As we concluded our studies, I could gauge that the time we had spent in the studies, worshipping our Lord and Saviour, meditating on his words, was not just enlightening, but positively impacted the lives of the participants, and mine.

Praying and having faith in Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ that this investment will only bring out positive and fruitful outcomes in all of our lives, and with God's guidance, we would be like Psalmist who wrote, in Psalm 1:3, "Who is like a tree planted by the streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither, whatever they do prospers."

Praise be to God!



## About the writer:

**Felix John**, grew up in a household where he learnt about God from a very young age. Even though he made his way into a secular job unlike his father, he never gave up an opportunity to miss out on church. Since being a member of Christ Church, he has been actively involved with the youth fellowship taking regular Bible Study classes and leading the evening worship service every 4th Sunday of the month. In his free time he loves to spend time with his family and teach his daughter how to play the keyboard!





# मेरी ज़िंदगी की गवाही

By Anita Soren

क्योंकि परमेश्वर ने जगत से ऐसा प्रेम रखा कि उस ने अपना एकलौता पुत्र दे दिया, ताकि जो कोई उस पर विश्वास करे, वह नाश न हो, परन्तु अनन्त जीवन पाए।

**यूहन्ना 3:16**



प्रभु परमेश्वर की स्तुति और महिमा हो, जिसने हमें हर संकट से बचाए रखा। येशू मसीह के अनुग्रह और समर्थिये नाम में धन्यवाद हो। मैं अनिता सोरेन झारखंड की रहने वाली हूँ, मैं एक फ्रेंड्स मिशनरी प्रेयर बांड की वजह से प्रभु येशू मसीह को जानने लगी। मुझे बचपन से ही प्रभु येशू मसीह को जानना था। घर की आर्थिक स्थिति और मौहौल ठीक ना होने के कारण, मुझे शहर आना पड़ा। अब मैं सेक्टर 12 में अपने मम्मी पापा के साथ रहती हूँ। मैं 2008 से प्रभु के द्वार पर एक अजनबी की तरह आती थी। पिछले कुछ वर्षों से क्राइस्ट चर्च से जुड़ी हुई हूँ।

मैंने अपनी पढ़ाई सेंट जोसेफ मिडल स्कूल से करी। हाइ स्कूल की पढ़ाई सेंट जोसेफ उच्च विधायला से करी और बोर्ड की परीक्षा द्वावितीय श्रेणी से पास करी। घर की स्थिति खराब होने के कारण मैं प्रभु येशू से प्रार्थना करती थी "हे येशू मुझे आगे पढ़ाई करनी है, समझ नहीं आता कैसे करूँ? येशू मुझे रास्ता दिखाओ" जिस तरह दाउद राजा अपने भजन के द्वारा लिखते हैं "हे यहोवा, मेरी सहायता कर कि मैं तेरी राहों को सीखूँ। तू अपने मार्गों की मुझको शिक्षा दे। अपनी सच्ची राह तू मुझको दिखा और उसका उपदेश मुझे दे। तू मेरा परमेश्वर मेरा उद्धारकर्ता है। मुझको हर दिन तेरा भरोसा है। हे यहोवा, मुझ पर अपनी दया रख और उस ममता को मुझ पर प्रकट कर, जिसे तू हरदम रखता है।" भजन संहिता 25: 4-6

मैं अपनी गवाही आप सब के साथ बाँटना चाहूँगी। येशू ने मेरी सहायता करी की मैं अपनी उच्च शिक्षा, इंटरमीडियेट की शिक्षा और गॅजुयेशन डिग्री हासिल कर पाई। साथ ही साथ मैंने कंप्यूटर ट्रेनिंग भी करी और आज एक बड़ी मॅन्यूफॅक्चरिंग कंपनी में कंप्यूटर असिस्टेंट की नौकरी करती हूँ। जिससे रोज़ की ज़रूरतें पूरी होती हैं। मैं आज भी कुछ नया सीखने की इच्छा रखती हूँ और चाहती हूँ कि मेरी ज़िंदगी टेक्नालजी के साथ चलनी चाहिए। इसीलिए मैंने ऑरेकल डेटाबेस मॅनेजमेंट पढ़ना शुरू किया और आज भी उसका अध्ययन करती हूँ।



# मेरी ज़िंदगी की गवाही

मेरा परिवहिक जीवन और आर्थिक स्थिति बेहद खराब थी, घर में शराब का कहेर और लड़ाई झगड़े दिन प्रतिदिन होते रहते थे। जिसके कारण मेरी पढ़ाई में काफी दिक्कत आई यहाँ तक की किताब को फेंका जाता था और कभी कभी जलाया जाता था। मैं रोती और प्रार्थना किया करती थी "हे येशू मुझे रास्ता दिखा"। मैं बचपन से ही काफी मेहनत किया करती थी। मैं अपनी पढ़ाई लकड़ी बेच कर और घर का सारा काम करती थी। खेती करके और बड़ी बड़ी भुजा ढो के मैने अपनी पढ़ाई जारी रखी। मेरे परिवार में हौसला बनाए रखने वाले मेरी माँ, मासी, नानी, और मेरी छोटी बहें सुनीता सोरेन हैं। मम्मी और सुनीता पढ़ाई की फीस चुकाने के लिए पहाड़ से लकड़ी लाके बेज़ार में बेचते और पैसे लाते थे। और अगर कम पड़े तो मम्मी अपने ज़ेवर घीरवी रखती थी। येशू ने मेरे और मेरे परिवार के जीवन में उद्धार लाया है और उसका मैं प्रभु येशू को धन्यवाद करती हूँ।

समर्तिए और अनुग्रहकारी पिता विभिन्न प्रार्थनों का उत्तर देता है। इस पँडेमिक के दौरान भी येशू ने कई आश्चर्यकरम मेरे जीवन में किए हैं और आर्थिक स्थिति, नौकरी और बीमारी से सुरक्षित रखा। परमेश्वर की कृपा से अब मैं अपनी ज़रूरतों को पूरा कर पाती हूँ। इन सारी बातों के लिए परमेश्वर येशू को धन्यवाद और स्तुति देती हूँ। अमीन।



## About the writer:

**Anita Soren**, hails from Jharkhand and carries her culture boldly and proudly. She serves the Lord with her time and heart and stays grounded in His will. She enjoys relishing good food and listening to music. She also sings beautifully!





# Worship Focus – Raise a Hallelujah!

By Jeffrey Rujen

## *Raise a Hallelujah!*

Originally written, composed and sung by Bethel Music, Jake Stevens, Jonathan David Helser, Melissa Helser, Molly Skaggs. This song is from Bethel Music's 11<sup>th</sup> live album Victory. It was released on March 8, 2019, genre of Contemporary Worship Music and runs for 4 minutes and 4 seconds. The song is composed in the scale of D $\flat$  with a moderate rock tempo of 82 BPM and time signature of 4-4.

The song was born out of a spontaneous moment in worship and prayer as the Helseers processed and responded to the news that Jaxon Taylor, the son of Bethel Music CEO Joel Taylor, had contracted Hemolytic-Uremic Syndrome (HUS) which had been caused by an E. coli infection, and was in a life-threatening situation. Joel Taylor, in an interview with Faithwire, shared that Jonathan David Helser had then recorded what was an almost complete song and sent it to him, which he then played over Jaxon, who was lying in a hospital bed, from his phone repeatedly. Over time, Jaxon fully recovered from the sickness. Joel Taylor also indicated in his interview with Faithwire that the song was never planned to be on the album, calling the song's inclusion on the album a "last minute decision," and noted that it was being prepared for a nationwide (in the US) radio debut. Soon the song got worldwide recognition.

This story has not only impacted me but also millions around the world.

The lines of the 1<sup>st</sup> verse - "I raise a hallelujah, in the presence of my enemies. I raise a hallelujah, louder than the unbelief. I raise a hallelujah; my weapon is a melody. I raise a hallelujah; Heaven comes to fight for me" - are extremely empowering and so is the rest of the song.

Live Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=awkO61T6i0k>



### **About the writer:**

**Jeffrey Rujen**, hailing from Tamil Nadu and currently studying B.Tech in Amity University NOIDA, Jeffrey joined our Youth Group a couple of years back. He is a talented singer and musician. He also enjoys gaming, photography and cooking! Check out Jeff's Youtube channel 'Gerafrey Studios' for more of his music!



# Fare Thee Well, Rev Sunil Ghazan!

By Alwyn Theodore

**Rev. Sunil Ghazan** took charge as the presbyter-in-charge of Christ Church, NOIDA in July 2018 and served with us till the end of July 2020 when he was posted to St. Martin Church, Delhi Cantt.

From the very beginning, it was evident that he wanted to serve the Lord by serving people around him. One fine example would be establishing the Pastor's Office, through which many were able to reach out to him privately and be blessed through him. He also took care of the church building, by spearheading many projects starting from rearranging plants in the Church campus to make room for people to stand and interact with each other and much need ones like a toilet for the Chalera project children in Parish hall to re-doing carpeting and reupholstering of pews to the building of the new altar.

He said he did not know much about technology but when the world came to a standstill due to the pandemic, he made strides to adopt new tools and worked along with the youth fellowship to ensure church service was not affected by going online. Helped improve the quality of the broadcast by listening to feedback and working towards them.

It was time to bid him a farewell and we wish him the best in his ministry. Due to the times we live in, a traditional Church farewell could not be arranged. The church farewell was conducted via Zoom meet and was broadcasted over YouTube for convenience and higher coverage.

Other fellowships conducted their farewell for Rev. Sunil Ghazan including:

- Congregation of Christ Church, Greater Noida through a Zoom meet lead by Rev. Sandeep David
- Women's Fellowship over Zoom meet
- A few representatives of Youth Fellowship met the pastor at church and shared their gratitude.

Even though Rev. Sunil Ghazan stayed with us for a short while, he leaves us with many memories. We will miss his short, concise yet impactful sermons, daily insights for happy living and many more.

Pastor, may God bless you and use you mightily for the glory of His kingdom, wherever He may lead you.



## About the writer:

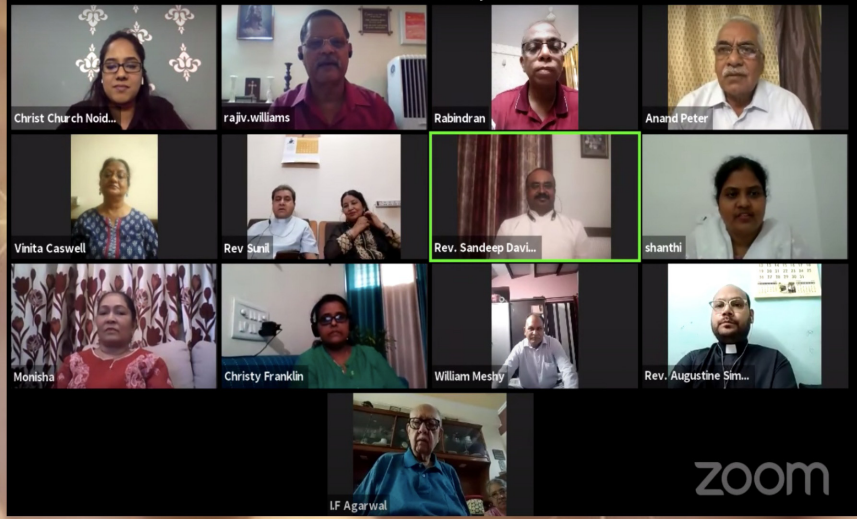
**Alwyn Theodore**, the silent man behind the scenes! Alwyn is our go-to tech guy. He makes online services possible, man behind the sound system for the entire church and a wonderful guitar player.





# REV. SUNIL GHAZAN'S FAREWELL

Christ Church Noida - Farewell to Rev. Sunil Ghazan and Mrs. Saroj Ghazan.



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Rev. Sunil and Mrs. Saroj Ghazan given a warm farewell by Secretary and Treasurer and other members of the PC

Special Zoom farewell organised by the PC



Pastor with Women Fellowship

Church Staff



Youth fellowship farewell to Rev. Sunil Ghazan and Mrs. Saroj Ghazan.

Rev. Sunil Ghazan with members of the PC.

# Some Questions answered

By Rev. Dr. John Joseph

## **How different is the FAITH of us Millennials ? Is the Faith of our elders stronger than our generation.**

This comparison study requires to know some things about Old Testament patriarchs and New Testament believers. The word Faith is found in the Bible approximately 338 times in different perspective. Our God is an unchanging God (Malachi.3:6), Faith in concept to God is also unchanging with patriarchs, NT believers or Millennials. Faith is defined as “confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see”(Heb.11:1). By faith Abraham, who had received a child according to God’s promise, offered up of whom it was said “Isaac shall be called the seed”. In Jesus’ time, by faith Peter stepped out onto the sea on Jesus’ call and walked, but the moment he saw the waves around him, lost the faith of his call and started sinking. For problems or situations to disturb or destabilize the faith of millennials is simpler than the faith of the OT patriarchs or NT believers who sacrificed their lives for the sake of the Gospel. In order to remain stable in faith “present your bodies a living sacrifice holy acceptable unto God which is your reasonable service” (Rom.12:1). Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our Faith.

## **Is believing the same thing as having faith?**

In what we believe is the vital matter. Abraham is called as Father of believers because of his faith. When God called him, he started his journey by faith without asking where to go. By faith three young men believed and replied to the King “Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, if not we will not serve or worship the gods and golden image which the king hast set up (Dan.3:17,18). This is the determination and decision as the result of belief and faith.

## **Does Religion define who we are or is it a mere concept created by man ?**

Religion is a human made concept of reaching God and the result is dividing humans with traditions, customs, and cultural divides. Christianity is not a religion; it is a way of life based on the Word of God. The disciples and followers of Christ were called as Christians first in Antioch because their life, belief, deeds and works were according to the Word of God.

## **Has the covid-19 pandemic completely shaken our faith in the face of doubt and fear ?**

Of course not! God never ever gives a problem which human beings are unable to bear or solve. There was great flood at the time of Noah, due to the sin of the people, but God instructed Noah to build an Ark and commanded him to preach and conveyed the message of redemption from this situation, but people did not believe him. God is a loving God; he never despises or forsakes those who love and obey Him and His words. Doubt and fear are brought by Satan but to overcome these, one can refer “who shall separate us from the love of Christ. Shall tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, or sword?” (Rom.8:35). We need to be closer to God and experience the love and care of our Savior Jesus Christ.



# Some Questions answered

## **What should someone do if he or she is confronted about faith ?**

One beautiful example in the Bible is of Abraham and Sarah, they became old and there had no hope of getting a biological child as per their age and human factors. At the same time God promised that from your seed I will make a nation. Abraham believed and had faith in God, but Sarah did not. Abraham trusted in His promise by believing that Nothing is impossible with God. Simply trust in God and see how he will transform your life. Trust and have faith in God, and diligently study the bible and ask God to give you the wisdom for you to stay strong in your faith and be firm in your response.

## **Why doesn't God interact with us today the way He did over the difficult periods of time covered in the Bible ?**

We need to understand yesterday, today and forever God is the same. Each time God interacts according to the proof given in the Word of God. When there was a need of water and food in the wilderness as Israelites was fleeing from Egyptian bondage, He provided. (Exo.16;4, 15:15). In exile, Daniel was put in the lion's den, God sent His angels to shut the mouth of the lion (Dan.6:22). In the Gospel of John Chapter 5 we see a sick person with no help interacting with Jesus Christ and receiving healing. Paul and Silas in Philippian jail miraculously released by God's power(Acts.16:19.) Understanding God's interaction is a personal experience in every individual's life and a blessing to the chosen generation. The closer you are to God the more you experience Him communicating with you.

## **Bible talks about being Christ like. Is this still possible in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?**

Being Christ like is impossible because of His unique birth, life, ministry, death, resurrection, ascension and second coming. Jesus was complete God and complete man. Meaning He was sinless, at the same time he had pain, hunger, thirst, compassion, sweat, weary, sorrow, anger. While He lived, He simplified the commandments into two "Love the Lord your God who made all creation with all your heart, mind and soul and love your neighbor as yourself". If you follow this, you can be Christ like in the human nature, not as divine nature because God made man less than the glory of Angels.

## **How important is studying the socio-economic Jewish history to better understand the times when Christ lived?**

Jewish history is incomplete without the detailed study of the Bible because their origin, formation, scattering, ups and downs and lot of economical factors are explained in the Bible. In fact their socio-economic conditions were controlled by foreign kingdoms and faced political, religious, philosophical, economical unrest at the birth of Jesus and his ministry period. There was a silent period of 430 years from Malachi to Mathew meaning God did not sent any message or messenger for the betterment of Jews in all aspects of life. So there will be some missing link to understanding everything. Christ came for the complete transformation of the Jews and all the human beings, but they rejected Him and faced the consequences later which led to them scattering in different parts of the world.

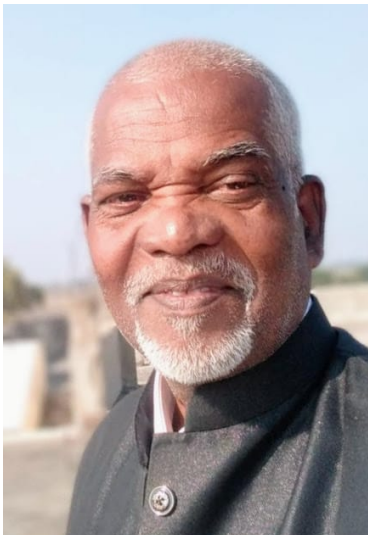
# Some Questions answered

**Why did God put the tree of knowledge in the garden of Eden in the first place. If God is all knowing, he knew what was going to happen? It would have been so easy just to place it on the other side of the world and prevent sin from happening.**

Our God is a perfect God. He created everything and saw it was good. He made man and woman and provided them with everything, gave free will with a command not written in the stone but in their hearts. God's presence was in garden of Eden, all facilities were in the garden, freedom was there, authority over animals were given to them, not only tree of knowledge but also the tree of life were there when God gave them freewill. Even now God gives us freewill and having the tree of knowledge as well as tree of life with us in this world. He is Omniscience, an all-knowing God. God never takes the easy way out, that's why He sent His only begotten Son to offer sacrifice himself for the redemption of mankind.

**Bible often describes women as having to be submissive. With the defined gender roles in our society and rise of feminism. How does God see a Christian woman?**

God made woman by saying "it is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him" Gen 2:18. Out of Man He made woman, not over man but to be a help, an apt help, not the master but to submit in all aspects. In the book of Ephesians chapter 5:22 onwards Apostle Paul teaches why and how to be submissive. Of course Jesus respects women and in various incidents He has compassion for them, advises them and cares for them because women are considered "weak vessels". Amongst other factors, rise of feminism could be a result of trying to overcome some inferiority complexes, like Jezebel the wife of King Ahab of Israel. Biblical concept of a Christian woman is to be submissive to the Word of God and in association to the man in all aspects.



## About the writer:

**Rev Dr John Joseph**, is an independent evangelist and missionary worker with several decades of Christian missionary work at grass root level all over the Indian Sub-continent. Currently based in Hyderabad, working in a Christian organization which mobilizes young people from various parts of the country, equipping them with knowledge and skill to spread the Gospel in their respective native lands. In his free time he prefers to watch news or sports, plan out his travels, and gobble up delicious food.



# Events & Notices

By Kunal Levi

## EVENTS

- **VISIT TO OLD AGE HOME WITH SMF-** Philip Nath from the youth accompanied the Senior Members Fellowship (SMF) visiting an old age home and interacted with people there.
- **REPUBLIC DAY HALF DAY RETREAT** – Organised by the Youth Fellowship, his half day retreat focused on “Duties towards State Authorities & One Another” based on Romans 13 and led by Rev. Dr. Abraham Matthew, member of National Council of Churches in India.
- **YOUTH PICNIC** - Organised in February to The Lodhi Gardens for the youth to have a good time of fellowship and group activities. Their picnic had elements of praise & worship, sports and biryani!
- **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** – Online VBS was organised in June which brought children all over closer via the power of the internet
- **ONLINE SUNDAY SCHOOL** – CCN Sunday School started holding regular zoom calls every Sunday as an initiative to engage our kids with a little bit of learning!
- **LAST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH** – Praise & Worship is led by the youth every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in the morning service. In the evening service, youth helps out with the message as well as Praise & Worship
- **FAREWELL TO OUR BELOVED PASTOR-** A sentimental farewell was given to our pastor - Rev. Sunil Ghazan over zoom and various fellowships met Rev Sunil to bid farewell and thank him for his service at Christ Church NOIDA
- **WELCOMING OUR NEW PASTOR AND ASSOCIATE PASTOR** – Rev Sandeep David and Rev Augustine Simon were welcomed by the church, PC and various fellowships such as the youth to begin their tenure at Christ Church NOIDA

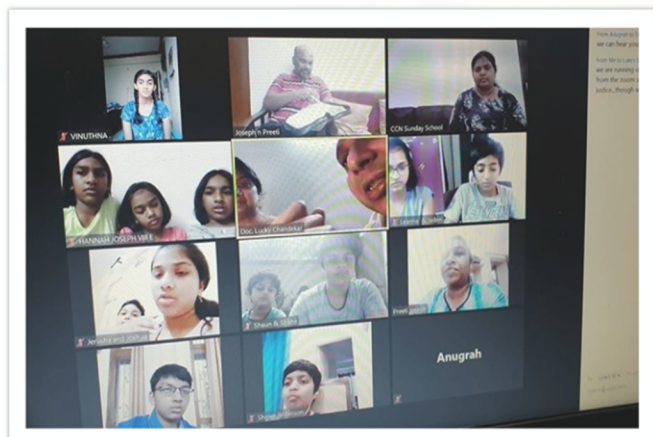


### About the writer:

**Kunal Levi**, currently studying B.Pharma, grew up in CCN congregation and is one of our young members. Kunal excels at playing drums and enjoys foodie walks, football and gaming. He's often seen serving at the altar and these days, supports the church media team to bring the services online!







# Remembering Our beloved Lukose Uncle

By Alex John



Col. Uncle is how we lovingly called him in my family. Whenever I see or hear about an army man, my mind drifts off to Lukose uncle subconsciously as he was someone who was regarded highly in my family.

I remember my father telling me a story about Lukose uncle when he was in his school days, he tells this story like it was etched to his memory maybe because it was his first time, he had seen an Army man or maybe because it was his enigmatic persona that had a lasting impression on my father.

It was a matter of great pride for someone like my father who belonged from a place where it was uncommon to see people take up jobs in engineering, medical or for that matter in defence services. I don't exactly recall the year, but it was around the mid 60s when my father in his teenage years got to know Lukose uncle visiting after he joined the Army, to his home where he grew up as a kid in a modest town called Changanacherry, Kottayam District, Kerala. My father tells me when he and his friends got to know Col. Lukose was in his house, they decided to visit him and see an army man up and close but as teenagers, they were scared to go inside and meet him. Instead, they stood outside the boundary wall of his house waiting to catch a glimpse of an army man in his uniform. It was after several minutes later they saw this tall, well-dressed man with his sunglasses on coming out from the house and it was only a matter of seconds when Col. Uncle saw my dad and his friends climbing on each other to catch a glimpse of him who then hurriedly ran away.

When my father shifted base to Delhi for his theological studies and started his ministry in Northern India, he was always in touch with Lukose uncle for various reasons. One being their love for God and the other was that Lukose uncle was an ardent believer of supporting evangelical activities and people who worked in spreading the Gospel amongst the masses especially in Uttar Pradesh and the other Northern States. Whenever my father needed logistical support to expand his work in Northern India, he was always there to support him. Col. Uncle always had a lot of questions for my dad, and they would talk for hours whenever they met on challenges and opportunities for more work around Christian evangelical services.

He was a keen observer and was very disciplined in his conduct in the church as well. My mind often takes me back to one Sunday before the service started, Col. Uncle noticed one of the candles on the altar was not lit, he immediately pointed that out to one of the altar servers and got it lit before the service started. This was the kind of attention to detail he demonstrated in every aspect of his life.



# Remembering Our beloved Lukose Uncle

He was someone who always greeted everyone in the church with a smile on his face and would rarely ever shy away from voicing his opinions. Every time I recall him, I see a man of integrity, high moral standing and with more than ordinary characteristics. There are still so many memories and times we shared with him and his family that will always have a special place in my heart.

The last time I saw Col. Uncle was in the hospital. I still remember meeting Danny Bhaiya who led me inside the ICU and I saw him lying there on the bed, helpless as we all were, all I could do was touch his feet and thank him for how he had touched our lives and how through his life he had passed on God's glory to people around him who knew him and interacted with him in his lifetime.

I still cannot fathom the idea that he is not there with us anymore but every time I see Manorama aunty and Danny bhaiya, they remind us what a devoted husband and a loving father we all knew was Col. Uncle.



## About the writer:

**Alex John**, our former Youth Fellowship President and an avid music enthusiast. You may often find him engaging with the young kids at church and leading them in praise & worship. Alex enjoys creating, listening and playing music and clicking pictures of everything beautiful in sight!





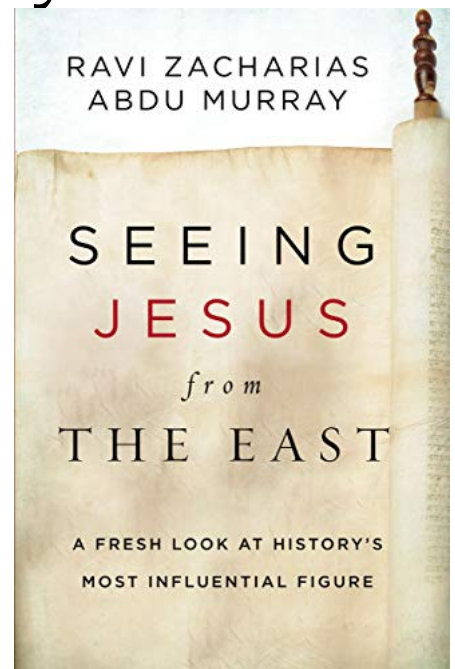
# Book Review: Seeing Jesus from the East –

## Ravi Zacharias & Abdu Murray

By Shefali John

**“In short, Jesus’ story is not a cultural identity story. It is not about what it means to be Indian. It is not about what it means to be in a family, as important as that may be. In its implications and definitions, it is about what it means to be human”**

Written by Ravi Zacharias, an Indian by birth and Abdu Murray, a Muslim born with roots in Lebanon, *Seeing Jesus from the East* provides a fresh perspective towards Jesus. This book acts as a reminder of Jesus’ Middle Eastern ethnicity and effects of which on His teachings, conduct and life.



Christianity widely is believed to be a Western religion. In India itself, it is known as the doctrine brought in by the missionaries or the British contrary to the birth of Christianity in Kerala by St. Thomas. Eastern world’s connection to Christianity is more significant than we tend to notice from the surface. Jesus on the cross gave a life-altering instruction to his dearest disciple, John “Woman, behold, thy son! Behold, thy mother!” pointing towards Jesus’ deep-rooted family values which are a significant part of the Eastern and Middle Eastern culture. The authors also talk about how the East is an honour/shame culture while the West is more innocence/guilt culture with more focus on individualism.

Abdu Murray states in chapter 4, “Eastern cultures are collectivistic and communal, which means that each person’s value, dignity, integrity, and very identity is derived from how he or she is perceived by the community.” He adds that “Breaking from tradition, especially religious tradition, brings shame.” This honour/shame culture is also shown in John 9 where a man born blind was being questioned by the Pharisees when he got his sight back and amongst other things, his parents said was “Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself”. His parents did not want to be associated with their son’s healing on the Sabbath day, as they feared being cast out of the synagogue which was a common practice of that time bringing great shame to their family. Jesus bridges this shame brought to this man by the Pharisees by honouring him with not only physical sight but also spiritual sight by Jesus’s revelation to him that He is indeed the promised Messiah.

“Fear of bringing shame to oneself is real in the West, but it has been comparatively uncommon, given the Western emphasis on individualism,” said Murray. “Today, with the ever-rising tide of social media and society’s ability to mass shame people for their opinions or beliefs, the West can afford to learn a few lessons from the East about how honour and shame affect our pursuit of truth.” He adds “Calvary’s hill is where the dance between all of these facets of life ends with a grace-empowered lift, thereby speaking to both Eastern and Western hearts.”

# Book Review: Seeing Jesus from the East –

## Ravi Zacharias & Abdu Murray

Ravi Zacharias & Abdu Murray also showed Jesus as a storyteller by His way of talking in parables to the shepherds, fishermen and all the others that he interacted with. Not only is this tradition of inculcating life lessons in the form of stories deeply rooted in the Eastern and Middle Eastern cultures, but they also form an effective way of getting a message across with shepherds, farmers who didn't have a strong grasp of logic. Shepherds understood the sacrifice it took to tend to sheep and therefore were the front runners in receiving the message of God's love and sacrifice for humanity.

Finally, the authors shed some light on why the Westerners should care about how the Easterners see Jesus showing that in its core Bible is an Eastern book. However, despite His Easternness, Jesus was countercultural in His approach. Jesus often uplifted women and cleared all mental roadblocks of ethnicity in His interaction with the Canaanite woman (Matthew 15).

“His Easternness confounds our narratives, yet His ability to address the very issues that plague Western culture make Him timelessly familiar to us all”. Ravi Zacharias in his last book before his death tries to show why it is important for us to see Jesus as not one with a geographical conquest on his mind, but a more wholesome individual surrendering to Him when he says “The goal of Jesus' reign is not geographical conquest. It is not about Hindustan or the House of Islam or a Christian country. The rule of God comes to us as individuals. We invite his reign; we obey his voice.”

Reading this last book co-authored by late apologist Ravi Zacharias has been an incredibly personal journey for me as I have closely followed his works and many public addresses made to all segments of society, his interaction with over 65,000 college students at 'Passion 2020' amongst my favourites. Ravi Zacharias' legacy lives on in his writings, his work and continues to bring young minds to question theism and get coherent answers corresponding to the truth of life, Jesus Christ.



### About the writer:

**Shefali John**, our current Youth Fellowship President is an integral part of the Youth Group. Her desire and love to work for the Lord drives her to do various activities centered around the youth. She has led her voice to the church choir for several years. In her free time, she loves to read books, watch movies and epic series. Her love for God and food trumps all!



# Prayer for our Country

By Arushi Janice Egbert

Dear God, source of all freedom, on this 74th Independence day which is bright with the memory of those who declared life and liberty as Your gift to every human being, help us to continue the good work which began long ago, make our vision clear and our will strong; that only in human solidarity we find liberty and justice.

Turn the hearts of all Indians to offer friendship, spread compassion, share the love and give respect to all citizens of this country. May hatred, jealousy, revenge and all negativity leave our hearts. May You and Your teachings dwell there.

Dear Father, we cry out for your mercy and protection against this virus in our country, India. We all believe as the Bible has taught us that You are our greatest refuge, strength and provide relief to all of us.

You will let no harm or disaster come near us; for as is written in 2 Chronicles 7:14, "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land." In these turbulent times, God grant us Your grace and peace, to stay calm and to overcome fear as Your words say, You will keep us in perfect peace those whose eyes are fixed on YOU.

Finally, we pray that you watch over our country, grant healing to our land with your grace and your power.

In the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we pray.  
AMEN.



## About the writer:

**Arushi Janice Egbert**, joins our Greater Noida Youth Fellowship Group. Currently pursuing her Masters in International Relations, she describes herself as an intelligent, God fearing and empathetic individual. She's funny and loves to make people around her happy. Her infectious laugh and care binds people together!





# Editorial Team



**Shefali John**



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**Stuti Titus**

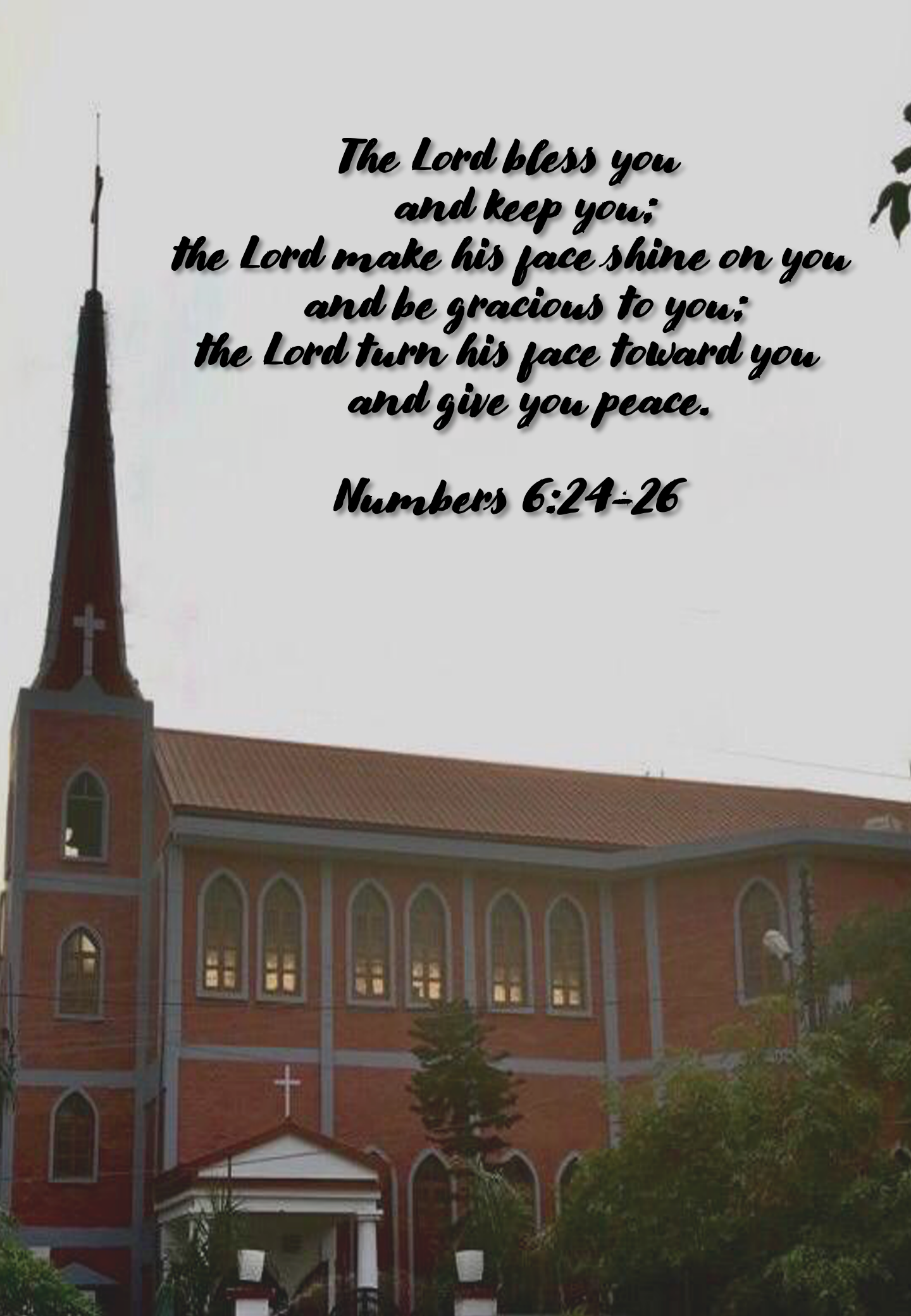


**Suzanna  
Rabindran**

# Consulting Editor



**Anandkumar  
Peter**

A photograph of a red brick church with a tall steeple and arched windows. The church has a prominent steeple on the left side, topped with a cross. The main body of the church features a series of arched windows, some of which are illuminated from within. The entrance is visible at the bottom center, with a small portico supported by columns. The overall scene is set against a clear sky.

*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*