

Campus Connect

Volume I - Issue III - Aug 2025

A hand holding a glowing lantern against a starry night sky. The lantern is made of clear glass with a dark metal top and a bright light bulb inside. The background is a deep blue night sky filled with stars and a bright, glowing starburst in the upper right. The overall mood is inspirational and hopeful.

Living as a
Light

Just as a small light helps sailors who are lost at night, our lives should also be a guide to others. In the Bible, Jesus said, "You are the light of the world." These words are not just advice but a great challenge and calling from God for all of us.

Many people throughout history have been a light to the world through their lives. For example, we often hear about Mother Teresa. She served those who were neglected on the streets of Kolkata and brought a small light into their lives. She didn't give great speeches, but her work showed the world her greatness. Her selfless service to the poor reflected the love of Christ. Her life clearly showed what it means to "live as a light."

How can we live as a light? This is not just through great deeds, but also through the small decisions we make every day. Our words, actions, and attitude should reflect the nature of Christ within us. The Bible also says, "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

For example, being honest at our campus or workplace, showing love in our families, supporting friends in need, and opposing injustice in society are all ways we can live as a light. To get rid of the darkness, we need to spread light.

True light is not just an outward shine, it comes from the heart. It flows from a heart filled with God's love. When we know who we are in Christ, we can share that light with others. Let's remove the darkness within us and let God's word be a lamp for our lives.

Jesus Christ said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12). We can live as a light only by following him. Our lives should be a guide to others and a testament to the love of Christ. Let's remember this great calling every day and try to "live as a light." Only then will our lives be a blessing not only to us but also to the world.

- K. John Bhushanam

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(English Version of Vidyarthi Velugu)

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REQUEST

Dear Vidyarthi Velugu and Campus Connect readers,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We would like you to note the following:

1. For address change, non-receipt of magazine, new subscription, or renewal, please contact the office staff, Brother D. Sai Kumar (79933 97630).
2. Pray and encourage so that Vidyarthi Velugu has no postal issues and everyone reads and receives spiritual benefit.

Each month, send only two important praise and two prayer points of EU and EGF through the V V Prayer Points link by the 10th. Those interested in writing may send their essays, stories, and poems to editorvv2018@gmail.com.

- Editorial Board

Be a Light

“Do everything without grumbling or arguing so that you may be blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life” - Philippians 2:15b-16a.

The darker the sky, the brighter the stars. Paul uses this striking image in Philippians 2:14–16 to remind the Church that believers are called to live differently — to reflect God's light in a world often dark with sin, selfishness, and despair.

As students, graduates, and staff of UESI Telangana, this call is not just poetic encouragement, but our shared mission. God has called us to be His witnesses in campuses, offices, and communities. But how do we shine in our everyday lives?

1. A Light That Is Different

Paul begins with a surprisingly

simple instruction: “Do everything without grumbling or arguing.” This command stands out in today's culture of complaints and conflicts. When we choose gratitude over grumbling and peace over anger, we shine like stars.

As students, this means refusing to compromise during exams, respecting professors, helping juniors, and standing for truth even when it's unpopular. As graduates, we can express this light through workplace integrity, servant leadership, and ethical decisions.

As staff, we can model Christ-like humility and service. Every act of

obedience becomes a spark that points others to the Light of the Christ.

2. Hold Firmly to the Word of Life

Stars shine because of their inner fire. For us, that fire is God's word. Paul urges us to "hold firmly to the word of life." This means not just knowing the word, but living it out.

Let's allow God's Word to shape our identity more than grades, success, or social pressures. Let's build our families, careers, and ministries on the foundation of Scripture. When God's Word fuels our thoughts and decisions, our lives become steady and true lights.

3. Real Faith in Real Life

An authentic witness isn't always revealed through public ministry. More often, it's seen in private, personal choices. A student who refuses a bribe, a graduate who forgives when wronged, or a staff worker who serves faithfully even when unnoticed, these are the ones who reflect real faith.

Paul's call to shine isn't about performance, but perseverance. People around us notice our patience more than our eloquence and our hope more than our hype. This is how true faith attracts others to Christ.

4. Witness Through Relationships

Jesus' witness was deeply relational. He walked with people, listened to

them, dined with them, and shared in their pain. We also shine when we are present with others—loving without agenda and caring without condition.

As students, we should invite our classmates into our lives, not just our Bible studies. As graduates, let our students, young graduates, colleagues, and neighbors see our faith through our attitudes and actions. As staff, may our homes and lives be open spaces of grace. Discipleship flows through relationships.

5. Don't Burn Out the Flame

Stars shine because they burn with energy. Likewise, to keep shining for Christ, we must be regularly refueled through time with God, spiritual discipline, rest, and accountability.

Sometimes we burn out not from ministry on the field, but from endless committee meetings, conflicts, or pressure to perform. Let's remember that administrative tasks are important, but they should never replace our intimacy with Christ.

So let us not try to shine alone. Stay rooted in fellowship in our EU, EGF, or prayer circles. Let's walk closely with mentors and mentees in ministry. We shine brighter together than we ever could alone and last longer when we fuel up regularly from God's Word and presence.

6. The Legacy of Shining Stars in UESI

We are not the first to carry this calling. Our UESI pioneers—people like Prof. Enoch, Br. Deenabandhu, Prof. E. Stanley, Br. Chandapilla, Br. Satkirti, Br. P.C. Varghese, and others—lived out this verse long before us. They shone brightly in their generation through sacrificial love, deep biblical convictions, and uncompromising integrity.

In Telangana, many graduates and staff laid down comforts to bring the Gospel to unreached campuses—from small towns to major cities. Some traveled at their own cost, stayed in student hostels, personally mentored individuals, and built lasting fellowships. Their names may not be widely known, but their legacy is eternal. They held firmly to the Word of life and passed it on to the next generation—to us.

Now it is our turn. Let's not take this lightly. We walk in their footsteps and hold the baton of witness. May we shine not for applause, but for God's glory until the day we too can say, like Paul, "I did not run or labor in vain."

7. Shine in Our Lane

We don't have to be famous to shine. God has placed each of us in a specific college, workplace, or town for a purpose. Stars don't compete; they shine in their own space.

So let's be faithful in our EU, active in our EGF, and committed to our calling. Let others see the light of Christ in us, not just in spotlight moments, but through consistent lives of faith, truth, and love.

Conclusion

The world doesn't need more noise. It needs light. Our authenticity, our quiet obedience, and our daily decisions—they matter. Because someone is watching. Someone is searching. And through our lives, someone may be led to the Light of Christ.

So, as students, graduates, and staff—let us shine like stars. Not just for a season, but for a lifetime.

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- R. Laxman Teja

East Zonal Secretary/Bihar EGF State
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Serving Others

And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave, just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” (Matt. 20:27-28)

How easy it is to receive service, but how difficult it is to serve in this fallen world!

Babies and children need service and care but cannot give it back. Some of us Christians are like babies, crying for service, for care, and attention! Even after growing in the Lord, some, like immature children, assert that they need to be served.

We come across several believers who say things like, “Why am I not getting what I expect from my Church?

Why am I ignored? Should people not give me respect?” They forget that they cannot always be at the receiving end; they too should serve!

A true servant’s heart is essential for ministry. This heart allows the person to put aside his or her own agenda in order to carry out Christ’s mission. The best leader in the church is the one who is willing to serve, as mentioned by the Lord Himself in the verse quoted above. This is the true standard for leadership.

Biblical Mandate to Serve the Lord

We see in Deut. 10:12, “And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, ... to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.”

“Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before His presence with singing.” (Ps. 100:2). We are called to serve God with all our heart, with gladness, which is a far cry from what many actually do!

However, if we see Moses, Jeremiah, Simon Peter, etc., though they were initially reluctant to serve God, they later went to great lengths, even at the cost of personal harm and danger, to serve God.

Biblical Mandate to Serve

“For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only, do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another” (Gal. 5:13).

In this verse, Paul gave a very clear message to the Galatian church. He reminds them that Christ gave us freedom from sin and the law, and that we have been called to this freedom. However, he warned them not to use this freedom as an excuse to fulfill the desires of the flesh. Instead, he taught that we should be servants to

one another through love, meaning to selflessly help others. This verse emphasizes that true freedom is not about living as we please, but is expressed in serving others with love.

Is Service a Blessing?

Why did Jesus serve His disciples? Why is He interested in lives that cause grief, dishonor, and a bad reputation to His name? It is because He values the relationship. He has given worth to every child of His. Though He is Almighty and All-knowing, He preferred to be like a servant. And He expects us also to be like a servant. (Luke 17:7-10)

“If your gift is serving others, serve them well...” (Rom. 12:7)

We will do just about anything to keep one step ahead of our neighbor. We will crawl, whine, connive, trample, and maneuver our way to the top. We see this happening in schools, colleges, churches, workplaces, politics, etc. People force their way into a promotion, sweet-talk their way out of trouble, or flirt their way to the top at the expense of those around them.^[1]

I remember a great quote from one of Oswald Chamber's books: “God, harden me against myself, the coward with a pathetic voice, who craves for ease and rest and joy. Myself, arch-

traitor to myself, my hollowest friend, my deadliest foe, my clog, whatever road I go.” [2]

Several times, we ourselves are our greatest enemies in serving God. However, the Bible clearly states that there is great blessing in serving God. In 1 Corinthians 15:58, it is assured that our labor in the Lord is not in vain, but will yield reward. Similarly, in Matthew 25:21, the Lord Jesus emphasizes the blessing that comes through service by stating that the faithful servant will enter into his master's joy.

Develop a Servant's Heart like Jesus

“God has given each of you a gift from His great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.” (1 Pet. 4:10)

We have the privilege of serving the Lord through all eternity (Rev. 22:3).

God has given each of us a gift to be used to serve others! It is not for our selfish use, nor to promote ourselves in the eyes of others, whether they are of the world or believers. What was Christ's attitude? He chose to humble Himself and give His life as a ransom for many totally undeserving people like us.

“but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant (Gk.

slave), and coming in the likeness of men.” (Phil. 2:7).

If we ponder, ‘Why did the greatest Person who ever lived say that He came to serve and not to be served?’ If He wanted, He could have come as a ruler. But in His Incarnation as a bondservant, Christ underscores the importance of serving!

So dear brothers and sisters, whether it is serving the Lord or others, let us prayerfully decide about our service and be wholehearted and sincere. And when it comes to “full-time” or “part-time service,” let us remember that the distinction is not of value but of function. There is no ideal service, but as we submit and wait on the Lord, He will guide us into His service. May the Lord bless us and use us in His service as He deems fit!

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[1] - Quoted by Pastor Wallace, The Moravian Church

[2] - Spiritual Leadership, Oswald Sanders J., Moody Bible Institute, Moody Press, Chicago, USA.

- G. Solomon Jitender,
Vidyanagar Zone, Hyderabad. He initially worked as Probationary Officer for Bank and later for World Vision India at country level

Sharing the Gospel

Sharing the Gospel is one of the most important responsibilities and greatest privileges believers can undertake in their lives. It is a divine calling that transcends mere words. Its ultimate purpose is to convey the transformative power of God's amazing love and the salvation available through Him to the people around us. The Gospel is not just ordinary news; it is the essence of true hope, redemption from sin, and the new life found in Christ.

In Romans 1:16, Apostle Paul states, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who

believes..." This powerful declaration highlights the Gospel's ability to reveal God's righteousness and make His saving power available to sinners. It is not merely good news; it is a divine force that transforms lives, offering forgiveness, reconciliation with God, and the promise of eternal life. The message of Jesus Christ, encompassing His life, death, and resurrection, possesses the supernatural ability to change lives and restore individuals to a right relationship with God. By sharing the Gospel message, we invite others to experience the love of Jesus Christ through faith and repentance, bringing hope, peace, and a new

identity, ultimately making them new creations. Sharing the Gospel breaks the chains of spiritual darkness, leading individuals from despair into the light of life.

How to Share the Gospel Effectively

Sharing the Gospel effectively is both a privilege and a responsibility for believers. It is not about having the perfect words but about speaking the truth in love and being led by the Holy Spirit. Only God can change hearts, which is why prayer is essential. We should pray for opportunities (Colossians 4:3), boldness (Ephesians 6:19) to share the good news, and for the hearts of those we speak to be open (Acts 16:14) to receive the message.

In the process of sharing the good news, it is important to focus on building friendships, asking good questions, avoiding arguments, and sharing with love and respect. As you progress, invite individuals to make a decision to follow Jesus Christ. Once someone decides to follow Him, guide them through the path of discipleship. If they do not make a commitment, continue to pray, maintain the friendship, and trust in God's timing.

There are various frameworks to share the Gospel effectively. One such model is John Stott's ABCD model,^[1] which involves four key steps:

- **Admit:** Acknowledge sin and the need for a Savior.
- **Believe:** Recognize that Christ is God's Son who died for our sins.
- **Consider:** Understand that He is Lord and requires obedience, repentance, and open witness.
- **Do:** Accept Him as Lord and Savior in prayer.

This model emphasizes a gradual approach, starting with acknowledging personal sin, moving to belief in Christ's sacrifice, considering the commitment required, and finally taking action by accepting Christ.

Overcoming Fear and Hesitation

Overcoming fear and hesitation in sharing the Gospel is vital, as even the boldest believers sometimes struggle with nervousness, fear, and doubt. It is important to recognize that you are not alone in feeling hesitant; almost everyone experiences fear or hesitation at some point.

Before addressing fear, it is essential to understand its roots. Common reasons for fear include the fear of rejection or ridicule, feeling unqualified or unsure of what to say, worrying about damaging relationships, and feeling intimidated by intellectual or cultural opposition. While these fears are real, they do not have to be final. God does not call the equipped; He equips the called. Courage does not stem from

[1] - Basic Christianity, John Stott

self-confidence but from confidence in God. Proverbs 28:1 states, “The wicked flee though no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion.” Pray for God to fill you with His love for others, remind you of your mission, and help you trust in the Holy Spirit’s power rather than your own strength (Acts 1:8).

Jesus Himself faced rejection, and He warned us that we would too (John 15:18–20). However, this does not signify failure. If someone says “no,” you have still planted a seed, and God can nurture it in His time.

The Impact of Personal Testimony

Personal testimony plays a crucial role in sharing the Gospel. For instance, I was born and raised in a Hindu-practicing family in Telangana. My first encounter with the Gospel occurred during primary school when individuals came to my village to share the message through street preaching. Later, in high school, I heard the Gospel through radio programs and read the New Testament as a Hindu. Ultimately, I surrendered my life to Christ in 1999, at the age of 17, when an EU student, Br. Mark Polonius, took a personal interest in leading me to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. As I grew, graduates invested their time in my spiritual development. The fact that others shared the Gospel has

continually motivated me to share it with others in South India and commit myself to preaching in the unreached areas of North India.

Praying for Opportunities and Trusting God

In his letter to the Colossians, Paul writes, “And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains” (Colossians 4:3). We are called to pray before sharing the Gospel. Often, we fail to share because we neglect to pray. Our prayers and trust in God open doors for us to share the Gospel and pave the way for sinners to commit their lives to Christ. The Moravian 100-year prayer movement had a profound and lasting impact, sparking a global missionary movement, spiritual revival, and the spread of the Gospel. May the Almighty God help us in praying, trusting, and sharing the Gospel.

Conclusion

Sharing the Gospel is a powerful act that can change lives. It requires courage, prayer, and a willingness to step out in faith. By embracing this calling, we can be instruments of God’s love and grace, leading others to the hope and salvation found in Jesus Christ.

- Rev. Madhusudan,
State secretary of UESI-Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.



FREEDOM IN CHRIST

When we hear the word freedom, there's such a ring of joy to it. It's a very liberating and freeing thought that releases us from bonds. This word fills our hearts with a new enthusiasm.

A few decades ago, freedom just meant liberation from political tyranny or from the bondage of slave masters. It also included the right to educate girls and the freedom to stand with self-respect as a sovereign nation.

Today, however, the idea of freedom has changed. It's now more about freedom of expression and the freedom of personal choice. For example, it includes choosing a career, a life partner, a gender, or deciding which social norms to follow and which to ignore. In this modern view, the prevailing question for humanity is, "How can I enjoy maximum personal autonomy?"

The right to choose (free will) is a great honor that God Himself has bestowed upon us. It is a unique blessing given to humanity by God, which allows us to discern good from evil and make our own decisions. The desire to be free is woven into the very fabric of our nature.

Mahatma Gandhi said, "Freedom is not worth having if it does not mean freedom to err and even to sin."^[1] This means that if a person does not have the opportunity to make mistakes or the freedom to sin, their freedom is not true freedom. This is because true freedom means the power to choose, and that choice also includes the possibility of making mistakes. As we all know, Adam and Eve willfully chose to sin and disobey God's command. Even though they had unlimited freedom, they chose the path of sin based on

[1] – Young India, 12-3-1931, Pg. 31

their own desires. Similarly, you and I, also with our free will, knowingly chose to sin.

Consequences of Choice

While we have the freedom to choose our actions, we cannot escape their consequences. With freedom comes responsibility. There's a delusion that started in the Garden of Eden and still exists today: that "I" will not experience the consequences of "my" choices. If a person chooses to jump out of a window, the person will end up with broken bones or probably dead. We can be certain that he or she cannot defy gravity.

We must beware that the very things we choose as a result of our freedom, or what we think of as the path to finding freedom, can actually enslave us. This can be things like following rituals, alcohol, drugs, pathological lying, pornography, incessant self-pleasuring, maintaining a certain image, following a specific lifestyle, or pursuit of a relationship.

In the beginning, the "high" or the derived pleasure is so great, it blows one's mind. But soon we are chasing that phantom of a "high" that pulls a person deeper and deeper into the same behaviour. The behaviour becomes a self-destructive one.

What first seemed hopeful and joyful ultimately becomes a cruel and unrelenting tyranny. Surrendering to these habits makes our hearts hardened and our conscience dead.

Overcoming Sin's Grip

The struggle with the overwhelming power of sin is a real one that happens



to us daily. One of the New Testament stalwarts, Apostle Paul, also writes about himself like this in Romans 7:15, "I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate. I know that what I am doing is wrong." We are stuck in this circle of sin and the loop of constantly doing the things we don't want to do. Instead of fulfillment, we get an abyss of self-loathing and are overwhelmed by deep guilt. We feel like spiritual failures and unworthy of Christ's love. We remain defeated and joyless Christians.

But the good news is we don't have to live that way. Restoration and healing are available to us all at the

Cross. There's no person or situation beyond the reach of God's grace. In this regard, God helps those who tirelessly and persistently try to improve themselves.

Here are some practical steps we can take:

- **Identify the problem:** Be honest with yourself. Denying reality will harm you more.
- **Have an accountability partner:** Find someone trustworthy who genuinely loves and cares for you. Talk to them about your struggles and challenges; doing so will reduce the problem's hold on you.
- **Identify the root:** Have clarity about what leads you into sin or addiction. The more you understand the circumstances that weakened you and what attracted you, the better you can withstand future temptations.
- **Control your desires:** When you have unwanted desires, find a hobby or an alternative to divert them. Additionally, stay away from the physical places where you are most tempted. It's very important to change your surroundings and focus your mind on other things.
- **Make amends for mistakes:** Rectify the mistakes you've made. If

people have suffered or been deceived by your actions, you need to apologize verbally or in writing. This will help you mentally heal, find closure, and move forward.

- **Don't let failures define you:** Firmly decide that your past mistakes should not determine your future. You are valuable in God's eyes.
- **Memorize and recall scriptures:** Memorize scriptures. When you feel challenged or face temptations, remind yourself of those verses. God's word is your most powerful weapon, and it will help you stand firm.
- **Seek professional help:** If needed, talk to a counselor or therapist. Sometimes, we need the help of others to overcome our struggles. Professionals can provide you with the right guidance.

Christ Our Victory

In this world, we have only one hope and one consolation to overcome every challenge and every weakness we face: Jesus Christ.

Every chain of sin can be broken, every addiction can be overcome, every fear can be vanquished, and every loss can be regained. Christ

Jesus has already won the victory. 1 Corinthians 15:57 says, "But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ." We have this victory because Jesus Christ understands our weaknesses (Hebrews 4:15). He is persevering in prayer before God for our victory over sin. "Christ Jesus...is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us" (Romans 8:34(b)). This is our only confidence to overcome temptation and enjoy this boundless freedom in Christ. "If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36). The Lord Jesus Himself will hold our hand and lead us on the path to glorious victory and eternal freedom!

Conclusion

Freedom in Christ is not just a concept; it's a transformative reality. While our choices bring consequences and can even lead to enslavement, the good news is that we are not left to fight sin's grip alone. Through practical steps and unwavering faith, we can embrace the restoration and healing offered at the Cross.

Jesus has already secured our victory, understanding our every weakness and continuously interceding for us. This boundless freedom, won by Christ, empowers us to overcome temptation and walk in His glorious, eternal liberation.

- Edith, Senior Advisor, HCU Zone, Cyberabad

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UESI TELANGANA

Hearts & Hands

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"BE STRONG AND DO THE WORK" - 1 CHRONICLES 28:10

We humbly come before you with a special request for prayer. As we set out on a significant mission to expand and improve our facilities, we are reminded of the Lord's call to be strong and faithful in our work.

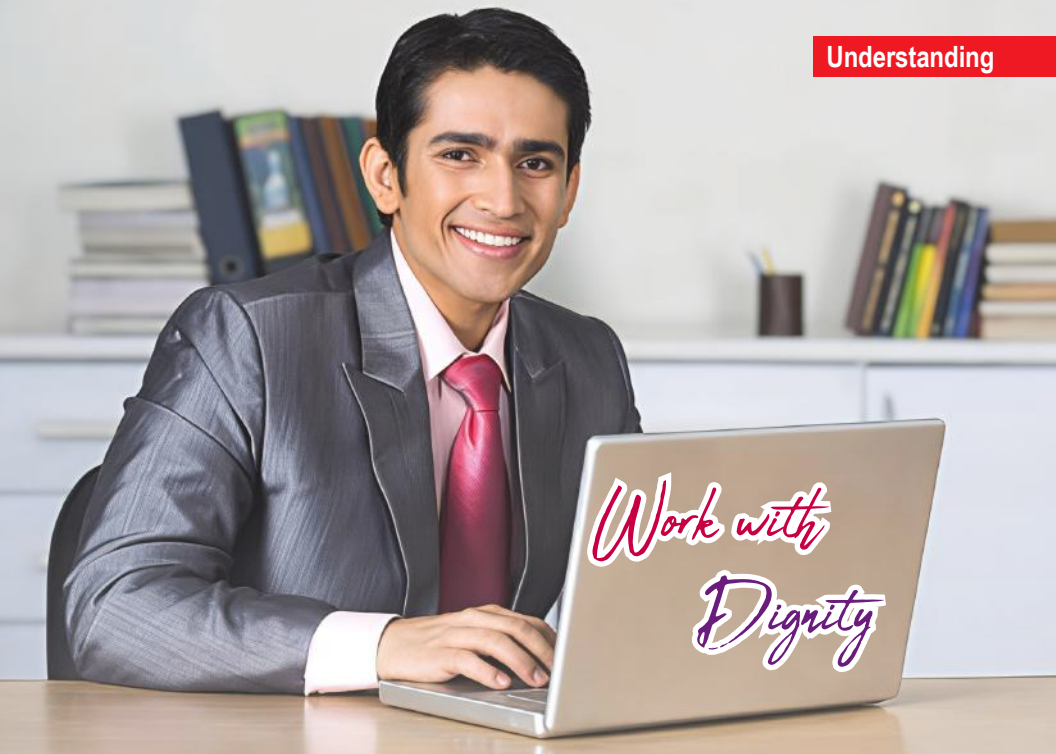
We ask for your fervent prayers for these specific projects:

- **Second Floor Hall:** Costing an estimated Rs. 91 lakhs, this project covers a plinth area of 5,327 sq. ft. and a slab area of 7,300 sq. ft.
- **Caretaker's Quarter:** Estimated cost is Rs. 6 lakhs.
- **Internal Roads:** Estimated cost is Rs.11 lakhs.
- **Water Recycling Plant:** Estimated cost is Rs. 2 lakhs.
- **Beautification:** Estimated cost is Rs. 3 lakhs.
- **Maheswaram Finishing:** This includes internal and external plastering, doors, windows, and the compound wall, with an estimated cost of Rs.12 lakhs.

The total estimated cost for all projects is **Rs.1.25 Crores.**

We are aiming to complete the second floor hall within one year. Pray for wisdom, skilled labor, and divine provision to see this vision through.

- G. Varaprasad, Property Secretary, UESI-TG



According to the Bible, humans were created in the image of God and were to reflect Him, the Creator, in some ways. God worked, and we also have to work. As per Genesis 1:27-28, being His image and God's blessing, we have to be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue the earth – to bring glory to God. In Genesis 2:15, Adam is placed in the Garden of Eden to "work it and keep it," and so work is part of God's design for humanity. This suggests that work was not a consequence of sin but a natural part of human existence, even before the fall.

Work has dignity because it's built for human beings, regardless of its status or pay. And every Christian should be

able to identify, with conviction and satisfaction, the ways in which his or her work participates with God in His creativity and cultivation. The "secular" work has no less dignity and nobility than the "sacred" work of ministry. We are both body and soul, and the biblical ideal includes both physical thriving as well as spiritual. We are supposed to see the work we do as a form of ministry, reflecting our love for God and our commitment to His kingdom. Work can be a means of glorifying God, as it is a way to demonstrate His goodness and power through human effort.

Working For Others

The Bible emphasizes the importance of respecting the dignity of all work – just wages, fair working conditions, the

protection of workers' rights, etc. Work should not be seen as a punishment or a means of exploitation, but as a way to serve others and build a more just society. The products we make with our hands help people flourish. By working for others, they may ask questions and inquire about our motive. We will have the opportunity to share the love of God and the joy of salvation through Lord Jesus Christ.

We are called to be diligent in our work, avoiding laziness and seeking to be productive in our daily lives. We have to enjoy our work as we are serving the King of kings in heaven. Working hard is one of the essences of life – it includes our time, mind, intelligence, and sincerity. We have to follow the given guidelines and be conscious of their limitations. We may not satisfy everyone. We should embrace creativity and confidentiality in doing the given assignment at our workplace.

Growth Through Work

No one is perfect. Learn by our mistakes. Take a sportive approach to correcting ourselves when things go wrong. Let us be honest. Don't try to escape any work that is being given. In the parable of Talents in the Bible, we see the importance of using one's gifts and opportunities for growth and productivity, rather than neglecting them through fear or inaction. It also emphasizes that God rewards those who diligently utilize what they've been

given. So, as we work, more work is being given. It looks like heavy work. But it is the fruit of good work, and it is the reward. Take strength from the Lord and justify the more work also, so that God may be glorified through your life and witness in the workplace.

A few practical tips in our workstyle:

To reflect Christ in our lives, we must respect those in authority and live in fear of our living God. Through our lifestyle at work, we should be honest even in small matters. These include:

- * Being conscious of time
- * Maintaining cleanliness
- * Following the dress code
- * Being disciplined
- * Properly maintaining identity card, notepad, pen or pencil
- * Correctly using formats and tables
- * Adhering to rules and regulations
- * Recognizing hierarchy and priorities
- * No compromise in preparing reports and accounts
- * Being impartial in analyzing and judging

Why Work Matters

As Daniel Darling clearly explained in his "Facts & Trends" magazine, believing in the dignity of our work in our workplaces, here are 5 reasons why our work is important to God:

- * Work is an essential part of our humanity.
- * Work is how we love our neighbors.
- * Work now is an internship for eternity.
- * Work is a visible sign of God's

renewing work in the world.

- * Work is a part of discipleship.

Conclusion

Work is an important part of God's creation; it reflects inherent dignity and productivity in our lives. It is a noble way for us to proclaim God's glory, to serve others with love, and to prepare for eternal life. Through our

daily labor, we can clearly show God's immense love and our commitment to His kingdom. Therefore, let us proclaim God's glory to the world through our every work!

- Venkat Jupudi, Vijayawada.

He retired as Senior Research Officer from the Ministry of Defence, Army Headquarters, New Delhi.

* * * * *



The poster is for a 'Discipleship Training Camp'. At the top, the word 'DISCIPLESHIP' is in large, bold, black letters, with 'Training camp' written in a cursive script below it. To the right is a large orange silhouette of a person with arms raised. To the left is a small illustration of a person in a red and yellow outfit. Below the title, the theme is stated: 'THEME: DENY YOURSELF AND FOLLOW HIM. Matthew 16:24'. A row of four categories follows: 'DYNAMIC SPEAKERS', 'DOCTRINES DEVOTIONS', 'REAL TALK SESSIONS', and 'FUN, GAMES, CAMPFIRE & MORE!'. The dates and times are '30TH SEPT 5 PM' and '3RD OCT 1 PM', separated by 'TO'. There are two illustrations: one of a group of people sitting in a circle on the left, and one of a man standing and speaking to a group on the right. A red starburst graphic says 'REGISTER NOW!'. At the bottom left is a location pin icon and the text 'UESI TS STUDY CENTER, JANGAMPET VILLAGE, JINNARAM MANDAL, SANGAREDDY DISTRICT'. At the bottom right is the text 'For more information: 8919628568 7036346939'.

DISCIPLESHIP
Training camp

THEME:
DENY YOURSELF AND FOLLOW HIM. Matthew 16:24

DYNAMIC SPEAKERS **DOCTRINES DEVOTIONS** **REAL TALK SESSIONS** **FUN, GAMES, CAMPFIRE & MORE!**

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Man's Help is Futile

Manushula Saayam Vyardhamuraa
Raajula Nammina Vyardhamuraa (2)
Yehovaanu Aashrayinchuta
Entha Melu Entho Melu (2)

This song, which came from the voice of Ezra Shastry, is playing from the church speaker

Evariki Evaru Ee Lokamlo
Chivariki Yese Paralokamlo

Sayamma gets up, sweeps the yard, and sprinkles water, working quickly to get to church on time. She gets her sons, daughter-in-law, and daughter ready. Just then, her husband gets in the way and scoffs, saying, "Will going to church make our troubles go away? Will praying bring money? There's no church for you. Everyone, work together."

Unable to talk back to her husband, Sayamma's tears well up. Sayamma's parents were of a different religion, but after marrying a Christian, she immersed herself in that religion. She loves God and church, and she runs to pray. How much faith this humble, simple woman has! Here's an interesting story: once, when she went to enroll her youngest son, Paul, in school, the school teacher asked for their caste. Sayamma replied, "We are Christians." The teacher said that they would

not get any government benefits if she wrote that down. Sayamma retorted, "It's okay if we don't get anything, just write that down." What great hope!

When the church elder, Jeevaratnam, who was also a relative, found out that Sayamma's husband was stopping her from going to church, he scolded him strongly. "That's not right! How can you stop Santoshamma [Sayamma's name was changed to Santoshamma at her wedding] from coming to church? If you act like this, how will the children learn to fear God? How will their devotion grow? If you don't come, will you stop everyone else too? How can that be?" After this scolding, the husband calmed down for that day, but he didn't change. Sayamma, no, Santoshamma, somehow managed to take her youngest son to church because it was time.

With the pastor's prayer, the songs picked up speed. The young men and women of that time, Premayya, Samson Peter, Jayanna, Devadasu, Paramjyoti, and Suvarta, sang songs from the hymn book. Church elder Aaron played the tambourine while another elder, Jeevaratnam, played the rhythmic tap of the cymbals. The pastor, whose name was David, played the harmonium. He was old in age but a master at teaching.

The pastor, with a serious voice, said, "Today's topic is 'Hope.'" The people who couldn't read and the ones who had read very little didn't

understand the word. "It means God is our only refuge. There is no one else. In times of hardship or loss, you must trust in Him. In joy or sorrow, there is no other way," he said with a strong voice. Only then did those simple people understand.

The pastor started his sermon with the verse, "O God, you are the foundation of my hope." He spoke about Abraham and Sarah, saying that they had come to believe that they could no longer have children. When an angel told Sarah she would have a child, she secretly laughed to herself. Applying this to the believers, he said, "If you work for God, He will pay you back with interest." But Abraham trusted his brother's son, Lot, very much. He might have thought he would change some people like him, but everything went wrong. In the end, even Lot's wife was tempted by worldly desires. That family was abandoned. "So, believers, don't trust in people, trust in God!" he shouted loudly.

"God trusted David very much, to the point that he was a man after His own heart, but what did he do? He lusted after another man's wife, sinned, and even had her husband killed. How many of you have such weaknesses? If you do, give them up right now, or God will be angry," he said. Because David, whom God had trusted, had cheated, God was angry and gave him only troubles for the rest of his life. There was no peace, no happiness. He had a kingdom, servants, and an

army. What good is all that if there is no peace in life? "If you are like this, confess your sins right now. God will forgive, but the punishment will not be avoided. You must trust God, but you must not deceive Him."

"Please listen, dear ones. There is another man in the holy book. His name is Samson. Many people have this name, just like mine. God gave Samson a lot of strength, and all his strength was in his hair. Because of his vow, his hair was never cut. But he also lusted after women. People are like this. The woman he loved tricked him, and while he was sleeping, she had his hair cut by her countrymen. With that, all his strength was gone. In the end, he was captured by his enemies and beaten badly. Finally, they took him to a temple and tied him to two pillars. Only then did he remember God. "Oh dear men and women, remember this well. Don't trust people; they will betray you. Trust God, because God will save you." Then Samson, with a repentant heart, prayed, "O God, I have sinned. Give me my strength back just once." God forgave his sin and gave him his strength, but Samson also died in that event. God forgave Samson's sin, but the punishment for his sin was his death. So don't trust people; trust God. Have hope in Him, and good things will happen," he advised.

The pastor adjusted his coat and said, "In any church, more women come. It's the same in our church too. Listen, women, and listen carefully,

men. In the holy Bible, there is a queen named Esther. The king, trusting the words of the country's prime minister, issued a decree to kill all of the queen's relatives and people. Her relative, Mordecai, told the queen about this. He said, 'The king has passed a decree to destroy our people. You may be well off here, but don't forget that you are also one of our people. So, talk to the king and solve the problem. Even if you don't, God will save us,' and he left. One day, the queen called Mordecai and sent him away, saying, 'I and my servants will fast and pray for three days. You also pray.' As she and her people fasted and prayed, God kept the king from sleeping. The king read some old documents, remembered Mordecai, called him, learned about the problem, and solved it. See? Prayer and hope saved them from death. The solution to a problem is not death, but placing hope in God."

"Hey, kids, don't make noise. I'm finishing up. The apostle Paul was a very wise man. He had wealth, status, character, and everything, but he put it all aside and worked hard to live for God. In the end, he died. His only hope was the crown of life."

This article in the form of a story is about hope. The inspiration for writing this article in the Telangana dialect comes from the writings of Pakala Yashoda Reddy.

- P. Vijay Kumar,
Hayathnagar, Hyderabad



Abigail

(More Valuable than a Pearl)

In today's society, husbands and wives often argue over small things and get divorced because they cannot adjust and live together. They continue to live alone. Women who are a little smarter than their husbands, have a government job, or have more skills, do not want to respect their husbands. They speak down to them. In such situations, Abigail's life is a great example.

A Couple with Opposite Personalities

If we carefully study 1 Samuel Chapter 25 in the Bible, we can see Nabal and Abigail, a husband and wife with opposing personalities. Even

though her husband Nabal was an evil man, Abigail loved, respected, and submitted to him. With her beautiful character traits, when great trouble and danger came upon her husband and family, Abigail saved her husband and tried to build up her family.

In Maon of Carmel, there was a wealthy man named Nabal, a descendant of Caleb. He had a wife named Abigail who was sensible and beautiful. However, Nabal was harsh and evil.

Abigail's Quick Response

When David, who was in the wilderness, heard that Nabal was shearing his sheep in Carmel, he sent



David blessed her for her wisdom. He took what she brought and accepted her request, sending her away in peace.

10 of his men to Nabal to ask for food, water, and slaughtered animal meat in return for the help David had provided. However, Nabal spoke rudely to them and sent them away. Then David's men went back to David and told him all the harsh words Nabal had spoken to them.

Then David became furious and set out for battle against Nabal, vowing that by morning he would not leave a single male in Nabal's household. At that time, a servant came to Abigail, Nabal's wife and explained how her husband had spoken harshly to David's men. He told her that David, along with 400 armed men, was coming in anger, determined not to leave a single male in Nabal's house by morning for the evil Nabal had done. He told her to think very carefully about what she should do now.

Abigail quickly took 200 loaves of bread, two bottles of wine, 5 cooked sheep, 5 measures of roasted grain, 100 clusters of raisins, and 200 fig cakes without telling Nabal anything. She loaded them onto donkeys and ordered her servants to go ahead of her. Abigail also followed behind them. When she met David and his

men, she bowed down to David, held his feet, and pleaded, "Let the fault be on me, your servant. Please do not pay attention to Nabal. Accept this gift that I, your servant, have brought to you, my lord. Forgive my sin, your servant, and when the Lord does good things for you, my lord, please remember me, your servant."

Then David blessed her for her wisdom. He took what she brought and accepted her request, sending her away in peace.

Nabal's End

When Abigail returned to Nabal, she saw that he was drunk. So she said nothing to him until morning. In the morning, when Nabal was sober, she told him everything that had happened. His heart failed him from fear, and he became like a stone. About ten days later, the Lord struck Nabal, and he died.

Nabal - Traits of an Aggressive Personality

- Doing evil in return for good
- Disrespecting others
- Lack of kindness and compassion
- Inability to respond with gentleness and peace
- Not listening to anyone (unwilling to listen or learn)

- Acting with coarseness, malice, and wickedness mixed together
- Sending away empty-handed those who come to the house in need

The collection of these characteristics is described as 'Aggressiveness.' Nabal was a very wealthy husband who possessed all these traits.

Abigail - Traits of an Assertive Personality

- Thinking carefully with intelligence and discernment
- Respecting others
- Having a quick and active nature to respond in difficult situations
- The ability to control emotions
- Humbling oneself, having humility, obedience, and meekness
- Being able to bravely say no to unnecessary things
- Responding with courage and calmness without getting flustered
- Doing good deeds

The collection of these divine personality traits is described as an "assertive personality." Abigail was a sensible wife who possessed all these traits.

Assertive Personality - A Solution for Families

1. An assertive personality is like a hidden treasure.
2. None of us are born with an aggressive or assertive personality. However, the circumstances around us, the people, and personal practice have a greater chance of shaping our personality.

3. We must have an assertive personality in resisting sin and standing up for God. Through this, God's name will be glorified.
4. Good personality traits do not develop suddenly in one day. Instead, we must practice and learn with God's help to grow.
5. If wives have an assertive personality, many problems that arise in families will find solutions.
6. Every wife should ask God for the wisdom and discernment He gives to know when, where, how, and with whom to act with an "assertive personality."
7. Any wife who desires to have healthy relationships should have an assertive personality and behave with dignity.
8. By growing with an assertive personality, we gain freedom from conflict, stress and opposing natures.
9. We grow bravely in faith.
10. We grow in healthy self-esteem and in emotional matters.

Conclusion

As stated in Proverbs 31:10, "A virtuous wife is hard to find; her worth is far above rubies." In Arabic, 'Lulu' means 'pearl'. Abigail demonstrated an assertive personality as a virtuous wife. Abigail can be described as a virtuous wife, like a pearl, in her family. Abigail's life is a great inspiration for all wives of today's generation.

- Triveni Srinu,

Ramanthapur Zone, Hyderabad

A transformation is possible

Some events in human life unknowingly initiate great transformations. I am sharing with you the experience of a person who underwent such an unexpected change. Read that experience in his own words...

I was an unjust person, who used to illegally collect excessive taxes from the people. This truth about me was known to everyone, including myself. But one day, an unknown change came into my life. It became a turning point in my life and changed the entire course of my life. I haven't told you my name yet, have I? My name is Zacchaeus. I am a wealthy man. My job is a tax collector. My village is the city of Jericho.

One day, I heard that a prominent person was coming to our village. Usually, when such people come, the public gathers in crowds. Hearing that,

I had a desire to see that prominent person and decided to look at him. But it was not easy to see him. Because a lot of people were in crowds. It was such a big crowd that one would wonder if he was a politician. But I have to tell you another thing. That is, I am very short. So, I could not see that prominent person from amidst the crowds of people. Then I got an innovative idea. With an unwavering desire to see that prominent person somehow, as soon as I heard he was coming, I looked at a sycamore tree nearby and climbed it before everyone else.

Meanwhile, that person came along that path. My surprise knew no bounds! He stopped right near the tree I was on. He called me by my name. I was shocked... I was surprised how he knew my name. Before I could recover, he said, "Zacchaeus, come down

quickly! I want to stay at your house.” I was captivated by the pure love in his call. I immediately and happily invited him to my house.

But this incident caused surprise and anger among the people there. Seeing this, the people there began to grumble about me. The words they spoke about me were that I was a sinner, an unjust person, and that this prominent person was going to the house of such a person. At that moment, a deep thought arose in my heart: “What’s the use of having wealth that increases value, when there are no people around me who value me...! My character went blind before wealth.” These words stirred my heart.

That prominent person stepped into my house. With his arrival, his greetings, and by listening to his words, I understood who I really was. I understood what a terrible life I was living. At that moment, I felt: “Phooey... is this life at all?” I am a rich man, an employee, a person with a status in society. But I got greedy for money and collected more taxes from people. By taking taxes with greed, I was left as a person of low value in the eyes of the people. Seeing where the greed for money had dragged me down in society, I felt disgusted with myself. Greed brought me shame and a bad reputation among everyone.

It’s true, isn’t it? What’s the use of having wealth that increases value, when there are no people around me who value me? My character went blind before wealth. This truth became clear to me then. Money did not change me as a person, but it revealed my true nature. Seeing my situation like this,

people recognized me as a very bad person. But I didn’t understand that—I couldn’t see the truth that was right in front of my eyes. That is, for so many days, I sold my personality for money. The dangerous truth that I had blindly fallen into the quagmire of sin in the darkness became clear to me with the arrival of that prominent person and in his pure company.

At that very moment, I made a great resolve in my life. So, I didn’t think about what others were thinking about me. But I didn’t want to continue my dirty, old life for even a second. At that moment, I started the change. I immediately got up and publicly promised that I would give half of my property to the poor and repay four times to those from whom I had taken unjustly.

By the way, I haven’t told you who that prominent person is, have I...? In fact, he changed my life in every aspect. Even though all the people looked at me with disgust, he did not look at me with disgust. His love knows no bounds. He is the true embodiment of love who came to me, saw my condition, spoke to me, and said he would stay with me...

That holy person is none other than the one who shows the way to all mankind... The great redeemer who saw me as I am, even though I am a terrible sinner, and forgave all my mistakes... The saviour who saved my life and my family, which should have been destroyed and gone to hell... The Lord who found me without my searching... He is ‘Jesus Christ’.

**- Prema Sadanandam,
Macherial**

The *Person* within *Me*



That day was a Sunday. We all went to church. For a few days, my mind hadn't been well. I sang songs in the church, read the scripture, and even prayed. I thought I did everything well, but there was a void inside me. I didn't know what it was. Just then, a link to a new movie came on WhatsApp from my friends. I was always like this: I go to church, I go to Bible study, I do everything. But no one knows about my personal life, not even my family or my mentor. "What the whole world does is right, so what's wrong if I do it?" This was my thought. In my view, watching a movie or having other hobbies was not wrong. I believed that I was protecting my spirituality.

But for the past few days, I hadn't known what the void in me was. I couldn't pray for long. I couldn't bear this loneliness. I didn't feel like telling anyone. I looked fine on the outside, but only I knew what was inside me. That day in church, the pastor was

preaching. He was talking about the consequences of sin and after telling the story of Lazarus and the rich man, he was explaining the sacrifice Christ made on the cross for us. I had heard it many times before. I had seen it in some movies. But I couldn't apply it to myself. On the day I was saved, it felt like a burden was lifted. But now, no matter how many times I hear about the cross, I don't feel that burden. I don't know what that change or that void is. As I was sitting there, it felt like the pastor was questioning me directly: "He sacrificed Himself on the cross for you. Is this the reward you give to His blood?" As soon as I heard those words, I got up and walked out.

I was walking alone in the flower garden next to the church. The atmosphere was pleasant, but my mind was not at peace. There was some unknown stress, burden, and fear. I didn't know why. I didn't feel like praying or have any interest in it. As

I was walking around, I saw a flower on a nearby tree, smiled, touched it with my hand, and inhaled its scent. I suddenly felt dizzy. When I opened my eyes, I was in an unfamiliar place. The clothes the people were wearing seemed very strange. When I looked at myself, my clothes were similar to theirs. Their language also seemed strange, but I could understand it. The people, their clothes, and the place seemed familiar.

"What is this?" I thought as I was getting up. There was a commotion in a crowd somewhere. Two men were healing a crippled man. "This... this is an event that happened after Jesus Christ died. They are John and Peter. This is the event we read about in the third chapter of Acts. This means I have gone back in time." My head suddenly started spinning. I got up and saw that the two men were greeting me. They were none other than John and Peter, whom I had just seen. I couldn't believe my eyes. What I had read in the Bible was very different from how they were here. The Bible described Peter as a short-tempered man, but when I saw the peace and calm on his face, I forgot all my thoughts about where I was or what was happening. I felt so much peace. The two of them lifted me up and asked, "Brother, are you okay?" I didn't say anything.

"Come, we will take you to our house. Have some food and rest with us, and you can stay with us." They took me to a simple house. As soon as we went in, I didn't see many clothes there. A fishing net was thrown in a corner. The house smelled a bit of fish.

Since I wasn't used to it, it was a little uncomfortable. As soon as we arrived, John and Peter both knelt and prayed. Then they came to me and offered me food. John said, "Brother, you stay here. I will go and see Mary and come back." For a moment, I remembered what had happened. This means that after Jesus Christ left, John was fulfilling his responsibility. Thinking about this, my heart was filled with joy. After a while, Peter came to me and gave me food to eat. It was bread and fish. As soon as I finished my meal, he tried to get to know about me. I didn't know how I was understanding their language. I didn't know what to say to him. Seeing the fear in me and noticing that I wasn't speaking, he said, "Rest, my friend. We will talk later." Only when I opened my eyes again did I realize what had happened. A person came and said, "The boy has woken up." The two of them rushed in. Peter and John looked at me with concern and said, "Brother, how are you now? Our brother Luke also came and saw you. We don't know what your illness is. We are praying." I didn't understand anything. Judging by their words, I realized that I had been sleeping for the past two days. I had no idea what was happening around me.

Time passed. I went outside and observed the behavior and clothing of the people around me. Their daily routine was to get up, pray, talk for a while, and go out. I didn't know where they were going or what they were doing. Sometimes they would go away for two or three days. A person living next door would look after me.

In his view, I was mute. Four days passed like this. I didn't know how many days it had been since I came here. One day, John came and sat down looking sad. Because I was familiar with them, I asked, "Sir, what happened?" He bowed his head in silence. It had been four days since I had seen Peter. As I remained silent, I heard John praying, "Lord! Give him strength." I didn't understand that prayer. Because everyone knew that once they received the anointing of the Holy Spirit and were in the ministry of the Gospel, temptations and troubles would come. But I didn't understand why John was praying like that for Peter. After some time, I noticed Peter coming back looking weak. As soon as he saw me, he showed some happiness that wasn't there, comforted me, talked to me for a while, and went out. I felt an unknown restlessness inside me. I wanted to know what had happened to him, so I got up and started following him.

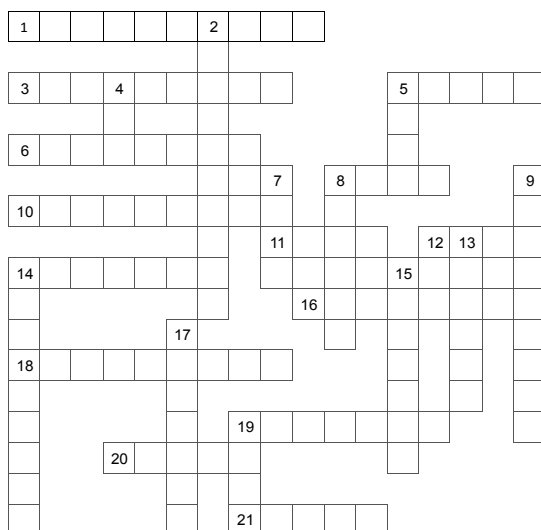
Peter was walking quickly. After some time, he went to a certain place. There were signs around that someone had been there. When he looked at the place, he knelt down, touched a rock with his hand, and was crying. I didn't understand anything. After observing the surroundings, I suddenly remembered. It was the Garden of Gethsemane. The place where Peter was kneeling was the place where Jesus' sweat turned into blood. Slowly, he got up and started walking. I didn't know where he was going. After walking for a few moments, he bowed his head and knelt down. It felt dark all around me.

Suddenly, Peter got up and started running. I don't know what he saw. I was running right behind him. I could hear Peter weeping. He was shouting, "No, no!" and "Lord! Lord!" After running for some distance, I saw piles of rocks. As Peter was running, the sandals on his feet broke. Even though thorns were piercing his feet from running on the rocks and his feet were covered in blood, he didn't stop running. I was running behind Peter. He was running and running and went up a hill. I saw signs that something had happened on that hill. I understood that it was Golgotha. My body went cold all at once. I couldn't move from there. I saw three pits there. I understood that they were the marks where the crosses had been planted. A short distance from there, Peter fell down weeping. He was lying there, rolling and weeping. His cries were shaking the whole area. Suddenly, he got up and stood there with tears flowing. Time passed. After a while, he got up and started walking slowly. There was a sense of calm and peace on his face. After following him for some distance, I went up to him and called out to him. He looked at me lovingly. I had seen this same happy face a few days ago. It was when he was healing that man in the temple. He was talking about something, but I wasn't hearing any of it. I walked with him in silence. As soon as we got home, I, Peter, John, and the man next door all had a meal together. Peter and John laid their hands on my head and prayed.

(To be continued in the next issue...)

- D. Ajay, Nirmal

August '25 Book of Ezekiel (11-12 Chapters)



Across

1. How many men appeared at the gate of the house?
3. What kind of spirit will I put in them and give them one heart?
5. What will I bring upon you?
6. Where did the glory of the Lord rise from the city and stand on what of the east?
8. Where have I known the ideas that were born?
10. To what country did the vision lower me to the captives?
11. When I punish you, how will you know me?
12. What do they eat with worry?
14. What will I do to them among the distant nations?
16. How will the cities be so that you know I am the Lord?
18. I will spread my net and catch him, and bring him to what country?
19. How are you to the Lord?
20. Where will they go to become foreigners?

21. What will my word no longer have before it happens?

Down

2. Who will I drive you out of the city and give you to?
4. What evil do people think of in the city?
5. How have I made you to the Israelites?
7. What should you make a hole in and take your belongings through?
8. What have you greatly caused to happen in the city?
9. What will I inflict on you at the borders of Israel?
13. What feeling belongs to the prince of Jerusalem and all the Israelites in it?
14. How will I be to them for a while in the countries where they go?
15. At what time did the word of the Lord appear to me and say this?
17. Whose son died as I was prophesying?
19. What are your streets filled with?

- K. Kiran Kumar,
Staff, Mahabubnagar

Take Up Thy Cross

Take up thy cross, the Saviour said,
If thou wouldst My disciple be;
Deny thyself, the world forsake,
And humbly follow after Me.

Take up thy cross; let not its weight
Fill thy weak soul with vain alarm;
His strength shall bear thy spirit up,
And brace thy heart, and nerve thine arm.

Take up thy cross, nor heed the shame,
Nor let thy foolish pride rebel;
The Lord for thee the cross endured
To save thy soul from death and hell.

Take up thy cross, then, in His strength,
And calmly every danger brave;
'Twill guide thee to a better home,
And lead to victory o'er the grave.

Take up thy cross, and follow Christ,
Nor think till death to lay it down;
For only he who bears the cross
May hope to wear the glorious crown.

- Charles William Everest



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