

HAPPY NEW YEAR

**BECOMING A CARING
COMMUNITY IN THE NEW YEAR**

DR. THOMAS KULANJIYIL

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SAYS THE LORD OF HOSTS."
-ZECHARIAH 4:6-

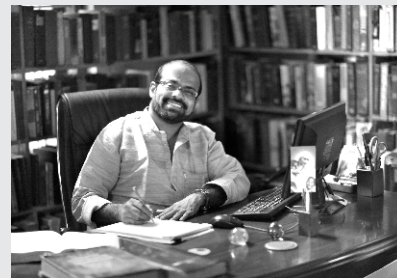


“The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, ”

Ephesians 1:18-20

EDITORIAL

Dearly beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,
Blessed New Year greetings to you in the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ!



The curtains of 2018 have closed behind us and the doors of 2019 have opened. The choice is ours and we have the freewill to choose on how we live. Is our focus on earthly things or are we heavenly-minded? Are we blinded by the many facets of life or do we yearn to see the wonderful face of our Saviour Jesus?

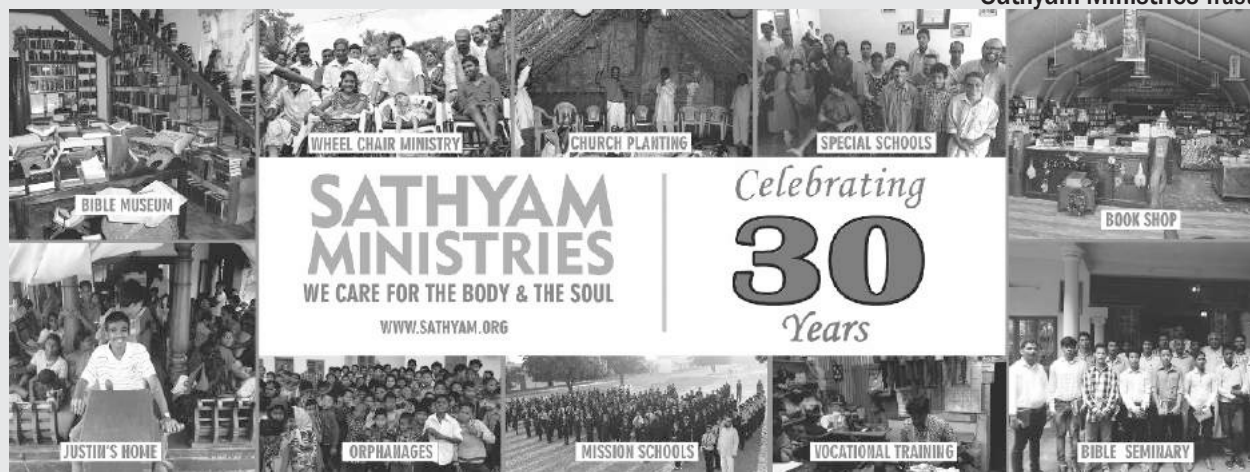
As we live in this world, we are on the race for 'more' or 'better' life. Our human needs and wants knows no end, it's ever-increasing. Even worse, the bombardments of advertisements and offers tend to often distract us. As followers of Jesus, our main purpose is to want 'more' and 'more' of God, His Kingdom, and be deeply in love with our Heavenly Father, Jesus Christ, and Holy Spirit. “Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.” Colossians 3:2

When we enter the New Year, many of us make new decisions or resolutions related to various walks of life. “I'm going to eat healthy”, I'm going to spend wisely', I'm going to read my Bible regularly', I'm going to be positive', “I will not speak ill of others” etc.... etc... these are some of the many resolutions we make. Resolutions and decisions are all great, but this year I've made a choice to passionately follow Jesus. I want to seek His presence, I want to be closer, I want to see His face, and I want more of Him! My prayer is that my eyes will be opened to see God and to know newer mysteries of God. I pray that you desire the same as well. This world and the things of this world will decay and fade away but our Saviour will never change. As we see the signs and experience many changes in this world, let us be aware that our Saviour's coming is soon. The precious time that we have on this earth, let us understand our calling and do more for God and His Kingdom as we await His return.

On behalf of Sathyam Ministries and my family, we are praying for each of you. May the love of God flow through you and may you experience more of Jesus this New Year.

Dr. C.V. Vadavana,
Founder & Chairman,
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God bless you!



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BECOMING A CARING COMMUNITY IN THE NEW YEAR

Dr. Thomas Kulanjiyil

Inherent in human nature is self-centeredness, indifference, and disregard for others. This is clearly illustrated in the story of Abel and Cain. We read in Genesis 4: 9, "Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" Cain answered, "I do not know, am I my brother's keeper?" Implicit in the very question God asked Cain was that he was to act as his brother's keeper but on the contrary, he acted wickedly to murder his lone brother. Sin leads us to self-centeredness that thwarts human relationships, but divine love motivates us to build caring communities.

Of all people in the world, it is the Christian community that should act as a caring community because they are constituted to mirror the very character of God, revealed in the person and work of Christ. Jesus demonstrated compassion and mercy to those who were wounded, needy, helpless, troubled and fraught. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and defended the vulnerable. The Gospel writer Mark reports that a man with leprosy came to Jesus and begged Him, "If you are willing, you can make me clean." Jesus was filled with compassion and he reached out His hand and touched the man and said "I am willing, "Be clean!" (Mark 1:40-41). On another occasion, seeing a great multitude of people; Jesus was "moved with compassion" (Mark 6:34ff) and invited His disciples to share in His burden for others. Jesus taught that tangible expressions of divine love were integral to His gospel. He impressed this truth upon His disciples when He told them the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:20-37). He showed them that a true disciple of Jesus could not evade one's God-given responsibility to mend the wounds of others. Through the same parable, Jesus also offered His disciples a new perspective on their so-called strange neighbors; they were rather their brothers.

The scripture exhorts us to provide encouragement, comfort, warmth, and compassion to those who belong to the family of believers (Phi.2:1), but we are also reminded that we must do good to all people (Gal. 6:10). We are encouraged to clothe ourselves with kindness, humility, gentleness and patience and to bear one another's burden. We are to demonstrate Christ's love in word and deed. An apt word of encouragement and a small act of material assistance can communicate to people our concern for them. Even our mere physical presence with the people in times of illness, grief, and sorrow can have great healing effect on them and that is why Ecclesiastes 7:2 teaches us that "It is better to go to a house of mourning than to go to a house of feasting...." Likewise, Rom. 12:15 instructs us to "Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn" to show that we are interested in their lives.

Let me conclude with a popular chorus that challenges us to become the feet, hands and mouth of Jesus to others this year:

But if we are the Body

Why aren't His arms reaching

Why aren't His hands healing

Why aren't His words teaching

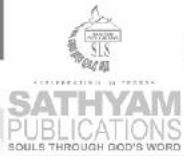
And if we are the Body

Why aren't His feet going

Why is His love not showing them there is a way

There is a way





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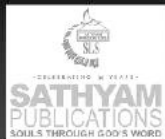
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Discernment in Spiritual Life

Brother Nelson Thomas



Continued

4. Specific areas where discernment is indispensable.

Generally speaking, we can say that we need this discernment in every area of life. However, the word of God specifically mentions certain areas which are noteworthy.

a. Good and evil. Heb 5:14; 1 Th 5:21.

- God's people must distinguish between good and evil and hold fast and follow what is good alone.

b. Holy and unholy. Lev 10:10.

c. Clean and unclean. Lev 10:10.

- Aaron and sons were to be away from any intoxicating drink so that they will not lose their ability of discernment. With such right judgment, they were to serve in the temple as well as teach the people of God.

d. Acceptable and unacceptable. Eph 5:10.

- That which is acceptable to man may not be acceptable to God. Our logic and even common sense may appreciate something, but that does not mean that God Almighty will be pleased about it. So it demands proper discernment to really determine and follow what is really pleasing to God.

e. True and False. 1 John 4:1.

- If false preachers and believers existed in the first century, how much more today. The Lord Jesus appreciated the church at Ephesus for their right judgment and the cleansing of the assembly. Rev 2:2.

f. Excellent and poor. Phil 1:10.

- Paul's exhortation to Christians at Philippi is to not just follow that which is good, but follow the excellent thing. We may feel that we are not that bad or even better than many, but in reality, we have to be excellent in our doctrine and practice. For this we need right discernment.
- Immature and carnal Christians may misunderstand and even slander a believer for his commitment to an excellent path of spiritual life. Cf. 1 Cor 2:15. Because only a spirit-filled and mature person makes such a high level of spiritual discernment. Natural man may hate it, carnal man may laugh at it, but God will stand by such a commitment of a saint. Psalm 25:14; Pro 28:5

5. God takes it seriously.

Ezek 22:26

The priests of Israel failed to differentiate between the sacred and the ordinary. God accuses them of violating the law and polluting the holy things. God takes their failure seriously, because He had separated them to be His own. Lev 20: 24 – 26.

Even today the standard of God is the same, for we have been separated to be His own special people. 1 Peter 2:9. We ought to reflect a standard worthy of His name. Eph 4:1.

6. Poor discernment could be part of judgment!

Isaiah 6:10; 44:18

It's not easy to comprehend, but the scripture reveals that as part of divine judgment, one may face such mental state, seeing but not understanding, hearing but unable to perceive. Instead of arguing over the various aspects of this truth, let us pray to God for more insight and ability to discern right. 1 Kings 3:9

Conclusion:

Absence of right discernment by Christians is very much apparent today. Many just follow public opinion or their own feelings. Without any hesitation, believers all over the world adopt the life-style of unbelievers. Compromise is seen as the best option, and most believers easily imitate whatever they see around.

In such a scenario, let the believers who claim to follow the New Testament realize the value of right spiritual discernment. Let us not just be satisfied thinking we are better than many, but be excellent in our life, doctrine, and practice.





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FORGIVING GRACE

Brother Noble George

Thus it is obvious that if we do not know how to forgive, we may never know the "will of God" and a person who is not aware of the will of God in his life is like a ship without a keel. The keel of a vessel runs along its centerline, from the bow to the stern. The keel is often the first part of a ship's hull to be constructed, and laying the keel, or placing the keel in the cradle in which the ship will be built marks the start time of its construction.

The person without the knowledge of God's will for him is blind, directionless and is not supported by the strength of the keel which runs from end to end. In order to know the deeper things of God or the "perfect will of God" a person need to enter through this gate first.

Revelation of the glory of grace:

After entering through the Gate of Forgiving Grace, then God opens the Gates of Glory. God reveals what plans are in store for the individual. Many haven't ever understood what Grace can do in their lives; they haven't fathomed its depth, its height, its width and its glory, its greatness. It is to their shame and disgrace that there are many who call themselves Christians but have unfortunately never been through the gate of grace. They were never forgiven and thus they don't know how to forgive others yet they try to be the ambassadors of the grace of God.

It reminds us of the man who was trying to sell remedy for baldness with a hat on his head. Accidentally the hat falls off and the truth of his campaign is revealed in his own bald head to his disgrace. A true believer is expected to do better than this. Someone said, if a person experiences the true forgiving grace, that could turn his- darkness into light, death into life, shame into glory, bitterness into sweetness, sighing into singing, mourning into dancing, sackcloth into gladness, depression into delight, reproach into reward, discouragement into encouragement, mess into a message and hatred into love. For many people in this world today, life is a living hell but eventually when the art of forgiveness is learned, the hell will be transformed into heavenly experience even on the face of this earth.

There are many other great things the Grace of God can do in one's life. In fact, there are numerous witnesses in the word of God who trusted in God and looked up unto His face for the grace and experienced tremendous transformation. At the same time, there are so many others who trusted in their own merits and found setbacks and failures as their reward and ruined their lives and eternity. King Saul, Eli and his sons, Samson, Judas fall into the second category. The list is long. This must be avoided at all cost, never fall from grace, never stray because we are on a journey. It will be wise to pay attention to the signs because the signs are there to direct us!

Large and small signs:

While travelling from a place to another, there are large signs on the highway side. They tell us where we are and how far are we from our intended destination. If we deviate, the signs will tell us we are headed to the wrong destination. Some signs are great and mighty and some small and modest. Some are looking for the big signs and miracles and ignore the smaller signs. Though the big signs lead us to the general area of interest, it will be the smaller signs that direct to the exact spot. Ignoring the smaller signs compares to the failure to notice the subtle changes occurring in us that take us away from God. The "fall" does not take place suddenly. When the smaller signs are ignored saints are drawn away from God and reach a "point of no return". This can happen to a person while being very much in fellowship and ministry of God's work. It is essential to sit in His presence to examine our life and surrender to His will, take refuge in His grace to avoid this fall.

John 8:7 But when they persisted in asking Him, He straightened up, and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him be the first to throw a stone at her. It is the story of the woman caught in adultery and the scribes and the Pharisees persisted and Jesus turned the light into their own hearts! Their intentions were evil; however, a lesson could be gleaned here, it is necessary to persist in asking Him, so that the truth of our can be revealed.

Wounded soldiers:

As believers, it is very easy for us to get hurt. Believers tend to maintain expectations of high standards of behavioral code of conduct from fellow believers. Rather than adhering to the biblical code of conduct, we expect that their behavior should meet our expectations. The standards are redefined and the same is true for the other side. Rather than working towards the common and acceptable standard of the holy word, saints work towards their own human standards. And that is why, believers get easily hurt. More than the right or wrong, it is the ego that is judging the other and that too by our own miserable standards.

(To be continued.....)



THIRD NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DISCIPLE MAKING

ORGANIZED BY JIVAN SANDESH MINISTRIES

THEME : "TAKE ROOT BELOW.... AND FRUIT ABOVE." Is. 37:31

**DATE & TIME : 24 JANUARY 2019 (Thursday) 04:00 p.m. to
27 JANUARY, 2019 (Sunday) 01:30 p.m.**

UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR PASTORS, CHRISTIAN LEADERS, MISSION WORKERS
AND FOR THOSE WHO HAVE HEART FOR DISCIPLE MAKING

Resource Persons:

Mr. L. T. Jeyachandran (Pune)

Rev. Chris Williams (Pune)

Mr. Krupanand Pappala (Bangalore)

- Registration** : Rs.500=00 per person. by 10 January, 2019 by M.O. or DD in favor of Jivan Sandesh Ministries Ahmedabad
- Venue** : Beulah Alliance Church, Nr. Old Christian Soc; Maninagar-East, Ahmedabad-380008, GUJARAT
- Note** : (1) Medium of teaching will be in English with translation in Hindi
(2) Limited seats available so register yourself as soon as possible by e-mail.
(3) One way second class train or bus fare will be given to those who will attend all the sessions of the conference.
(4) The accommodation will be dormitory type for men and women.

For online registration visit www.jivansandesh.org

Contact :

Mr. David Christian

Director, Jivan Sandesh Ministries

Beulah Alliance Church Compound; Maninagar –E; Ahmedabad 380008; Gujarat-India

Tel. No.: 079-22774305 (O); 09825910630 (M); 09327035067 (Enock Christian)

E-mail: jsmdsseminar2019@gmail.com

Website: www.jivansandesh.org

HOW YOUR CHURCH CAN FEEL MORE LIKE THE FAMILY OF GOD

David Goodman



"Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also MEMBERS OF HIS HOUSEHOLD." (Ephesians 2:19)

When the apostle Paul describes the church as God's household, His family, what does he really mean? Reflect with me a moment on what it means to be a family.

To be family is to talk through the bathroom door. Those family noises would offend elsewhere, but within the family are just part of the pulse of life.

To be family is to share deeply and openly. It's to disagree freely and fight with fervor, to guard each other's secrets and weaknesses with every ounce of our strength.

It's calling your sister ugly, because maybe she is when she mopes about the house in curlers popping the latest pimple. But it's not standing for anybody else calling her ugly. And the guy that she dresses up for, who walks out that front door with her, basking in her beauty, had better treat her right, because she's family.

It's lack of pretense. It's openness. But sometimes it's playing games – sometimes it's calling each other on it, in the middle of a game.

It's walking your little brother through the tough side of town, teaching him how to deal with bullies, telling him about girls.

It's telling Mom she's the best mom in all the world, not because you can measure that sort of thing, or even compare one mother with another, but because she tries hard and besides, who loves you more than she does?

When you hit that homerun, scored the winning goal, who were the first ones to clap you on the back? The same ones who were there for you that time everybody was calling you a big loser.

Family! The household of God.

There is no better structure than a committed small group for realizing all God wants for us as part of His household. No wonder Entrust, since its inception, has found the small group to be the ideal structure for shaping leaders for Christ's church.

If we examine much of what the Scriptures describe as the nature and function of the church, we find large congregations gathered on Sunday morning ill-suited for many of those ideals. We say the "one anothers" of scripture define what the church should be, but don't those commands usually require a context of unusual intimacy? How do we bear one another's burdens when we feel the only one in our church who may really care is an overworked pastor? How do we teach and admonish one another unless we are in a committed relationship where such permission is mutually agreed upon?

In much of the free world we gravitate to larger churches because of the variety of programs and ministries they offer our families. The irony is that in doing so we easily overlook the fact that when the early church met in homes, it had a built-in structure to ensure their church experience was that of a family. God's family.

That weakness can be remedied. Not easily. Not in casual small group gatherings, but in intentional small groups that commit themselves to living out the "one anothers" of scripture. Then, by God's grace, we can all become family.



Sathyam Ministries is an organisation dedicated to transforming the lives of the people and communities by showing love and care for individuals for the past 28 years. We are engaged mainly in charitable activities such as running orphanages, special schools for the mentally challenged children, mission schools, vocational training centers for women, providing free wheelchairs for the physically challenged (approx. - 100,000 wheelchairs already provided), relief works, sending our gospel team to various parts of India to spread the good news about Jesus and to serve the poor and organizing church leaders conferences all over India. Moreover, we carry out evangelical programmes and provide services to the people even in the outskirts of India. We, through Christ, continue our steadfast labor of love in proclaiming the gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus, and our personal ministry to the saints and the unsaved. We strive to restore dignity and self-worth to the down-trodden of society, irrespective of their religion, caste, creed, race or gender.

JOIN US.

BE A PART OF OUR MINISTRY. Every good deed needs constant support. We need your good wishes. You can help in the following ways and contribution at any level will be greatly appreciated.

- By remembering us in your prayers.
- By sponsoring a child.
- Be part of a mission team in our mission fields.
- By providing ideas that can be executed to enhance our work and activity.
- By providing for donations, funds and other financial aid for the organization.
- By visiting our schools and orphanages to encourage our children.
- By helping spread awareness about the cause among family members, peer groups, colleagues and other social networks.
- By volunteering your time at Sathyam Ministries.
- By contributing in any ways possible.



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THE STORY OF JUSTIN'S HOME



We kept receiving complaints from the school about him. The worst to suffer was Mary because in my absence she had to take care of him, manage the home, office, and then go to work. It was taking its toll on her. And if Justin failed to go to school one day, Mary had to take him with her to her school where she was working as a teacher. Justin was hyperactive and disturbed everyone. Mary still remembers vividly one particular incident where she really cried out to God asking for special grace. Mary had been teaching the tenth grade when she was interrupted by one of the helper boys of Justin's

school. Excusing herself from class, she came out to meet him to learn what happened to Justin, and he told her that Justin has soiled his classroom by wetting his pants. Mary excused herself from the class after explaining the situation to her students and by the time she reached Justin's school—to his classroom—there were no students in the class except him and he had messed the room completely. Anger and frustration gripped every inch of Mary, and she was almost on the verge of tears. The other children were accusing Justin of soiling their classroom, but Justin was least bothered about what was happening around him and what people were saying. Mary looked around for water to clean both Justin and the classroom but there was no running water available anywhere. So she went to the well, fetched water, and cleaned Justin and the classroom. People looked at her with sympathy but she did not want their sympathy. She was frustrated. She cried out to God, "Please God, find me a special school for the differently abled children closer to my home or give us money to start a school." And God heard her despairing cry, and when Justin was eleven years old, a special school for the differently-abled children was opened in the neighboring town and Justin was admitted there. In spite of finding a school for Justin, Mary was forced to quit her job to take care of him. In the meantime, we came across parents with children who were mentally disabled. In India, to send a mentally disabled child to school is expensive and not every parent can afford it. Mary was moved with sympathy, and she wanted to do something for these neglected and discarded children. Both Mary and I believe that God has gifted us with Justin to be a blessing to other parents who are struggling. Mary was all the more burdened to do something for these differently-abled children after reading Rick Warren's book, *The Purpose Driven Life*, and she began to pray to God for opportunities to serve the differently-abled children. God answered her prayer, and we were able to open Sathya Niketan—a learning disability center for the differently-abled children—in a rented building, and currently, we have over 48 children between the age of 3 and 15. Though much expense is involved in maintaining and running the institution most of the children coming to Sathya Niketan do not pay any tuition fees as they are from poor families. Our prayer to the Lord is that God will strengthen our hands to manage this institution for His glory and to be a blessing to the mentally challenged children and their families.

Later, with God's help, our activities developed into Sathyam Service Trust—an organization dedicated to transforming the lives of people and communities by showing God's love and care for individuals. Our organization is engaged mainly in charitable activities such as running orphanages, special schools for the differently-abled children, mission schools, vocational training centers for women, providing free wheelchairs for the physically challenged (approx – 100,000 wheelchairs already provided), relief work, sending our gospel teams to various parts of India to spread the good news about Jesus, and to serve the poor and organizing church leaders conferences all over India. Our aim is to enlighten the downtrodden in the society through outreach programs and activities.

Mass unemployment and underdevelopment of the disabled, especially women with disabilities, resulted in the idea of setting up "SATHYAM RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR THE DISABLED" (JUSTIN'S HOME). We have already started the project. Since the idea of Sathyam Research Institute and Disability Center is due to our son Justin, the project was named Justin's Home. Our prayer to the Lord is that God will strengthen our hands to manage this institution for His glory and to be a blessing to the disabled people and their families.

How great it is to have persons with disabilities fully integrated into the Body of Christ, not just by belonging to classes or community groups, but free to worship, become members and baptized. That is, creating a church life like yours and mine, where all barriers are removed and all have equal access to God and His House. How amazing to have God's house open and welcoming to all people, as He created each of us perfect in His image! As different as we all are, each of us is God's masterpiece.



Justin's Home

SATHYAM RESEARCH INSTITUTE AN DISABILITY CENTER A Ministry of Sathyam Service Trust, India

The Sathyam Research Institute and Disability Center, is the result of an immense need to uplift the disabled population in the Indian society. Sathyam Service Trust, a charitable society based in Kerala, India has been working in the field of Social Welfare and Charity for the past 25 years by shedding light to the downtrodden in society. Through its outreach programs it has mainly focused its activities in the area of disability preparing thousands of individuals to become independent.

The Director, Mrs. Marykutty Vadavana, of SRDC was initially burdened to do something for mentally challenged children because her second son Justin was born with a learning disability. After reading Rick Warren's book, The Purpose Driven Life, she began to pray to God for opportunities to serve mentally challenged children. God answered her prayer and we were able to open Sathyam Nikethan- a disability center for mentally challenged children.

Justin's Home A school & home for differently-abled

It is an organisation working for the rehabilitation of mentally handicapped children. This centre provides services to children who are suffering from mental retardation, autism, down syndrome, cerebra palsy and learning disabilities.



SERVICES

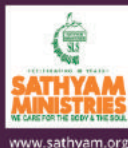
- Screening and identification
- Referrals for hospital, surgical interventions
- Therapy including physiotherapy occupational therapy, speech therapy
- Mobility aids - wheel chairs, tricycles
- Social survey and research works
- Day care and residential services
- Parent and student counseling
- Community and home based rehabilitation
- Health care and medical facility
- Daily living skills
- Nutritional supplement

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

- Women employment program
- Industrial training center
- Computer training
- Training program
- Skill development programs
- Pro-vocational programs
- Printing technology
- Tailoring unit

ADVOCACY

- Awareness of rights
- Facilitating and awaiting social benefit
- Facilitating the formation of self-help groups
- Parent training program



Sathyam Ministries

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OUR VISION

To empower the disabled population with the help of society

OUR MISSION

- To expose and develop the hidden skills and abilities in persons with disabilities
- To train and develop individual life skills
- To promote and direct employment opportunities for people with disabilities
- To remove social, cultural, and economic barriers that are associated with disabilities
- To implement a comprehensive, integrated program of research and training
- To develop rural community infrastructure in order to enhance opportunities for people with disabilities



Sathyam Research Institute and Disability Center



CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

**SATHYAM
MINISTRIES**
WE CARE FOR THE BODY & THE SOUL

FUTURE PLANS

Provide services to overcome physical barriers

Offer prosthetics (artificial limbs) and orthotics (devices to support and supplement weakened or abnormal joints) to remove barriers associated with physical disabilities.

Begin courses in community rehabilitation

Gain approval from RCI for conducting foundation courses in care-giving (6 month course) and DVR (MR)

Gain approval from MG University for conducting rehabilitation courses.

Develop vocational rehabilitation programs

Such as:

- Artificial limb manufacturing workshop
- Printing technology
- Umbrella making
- File making
- Envelope making



THE TESTING OF OUR FAITH

Smith Wigglesworth



Article based on Genesis 21:9 & 10

We have another place in the Scriptures, and I want to touch upon it now. Isaac was born. And you find that right in that house where Isaac was and where Ishmael was, there were the seed of promise and the seed of flesh. You find there was strife and troubled right there, for Ishmael was teasing Isaac. And you will find as sure as anything that there is nothing that is going to hold you except the Isaac life- the seed of Abraham. You will find that the flesh life will always have to cast out.

And Sarah said, "*Cast out Hagar and her son*" (Gen. 21:10). It was very hard to do, but it had to be done. You may say, "How hard!"

Yes, but how long did it have to be done? It had had to be until submission came. There will always be jealousy and strife in your hearts and lives until flesh is destroyed, until Isaac control and rules in authority over the whole body. And when Isaac power reigns over you, you will find that your whole life is full of peace and joy.

Then the time came when this son grew up to be a fine young man... but then came another test. God said to Abraham, "Take your son Isaac, and offer him to me upon the mount that I will show you." There he was- Isaac, the heart of his heart- and God said he was to be the seed of all living. What did he have to do but believe that, just as miraculously as Isaac came into the world, God could raise him even if he were slain (Heb.11:17-19)?

I see this: Abraham could offer Isaac. "Tell me how," you say. I believe that God wants me to tell you how so that you may know something about your trials. Some people think they are tried more than for anything. It is the trial that is used to purify you; it is the fiery furnace of affliction that God uses to get you in the place where He can use you. But Jesus will not allow any man to be tempted more than he is able to bear ("No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it." 1 Cor. 10:13).

The Scriptures are the strongest evidence of anything you can have. Before Abraham offered Isaac, he was tried, and God knew he could it. And before God puts you through the furnace of afflictions, He knows you will go through. Not one single temptation comes to an man more than he is able to bear, and with the temptation, God is always there to help you through. Don't you see that was exactly the position in Abraham's case?

God has not given us a pattern that would be impossible to copy. It is ecstasies of delight beyond all expressions for the soul to live and move in Him who is our being.



**SATHYAM
MINISTRIES**

WE CARE FOR THE BODY & THE SOUL

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Celebrating

30

Years

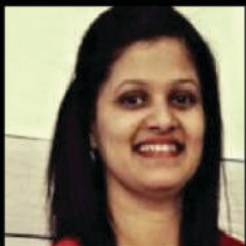
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Three 'gods' that are Stealing Our Worship

Pastor Kim D'souza

The Bible mentions that our God is a jealous God (Deu 4: 23,24; Exodus 20:4,5). But His jealousy is exactly the opposite of world's perception of jealousy. Worldly jealousy calls for envy, resentment and bitterness. But God's jealousy speaks of love, concern and protection. God's jealousy says: You are precious and of great worth to me. And I love you so much that my heart breaks when I see your heart break. My heart grieves to see you settle for something that is not my best.

James 4:5 MSG says : He's a fiercely jealous lover, and what he gives in love is far better than anything else you'll find. That's why God hates idols.

Now, anything that captures my heart in place of God is an idol. And anything that captures my time, captures my heart!

If we say we love Jesus, but don't spend time with him, something is wrong. Here are three 'gods' we are spending time with most in our 24 hrs.

SLEEP

"How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? (Proverbs 6:9).

I cannot even begin to count how many times I have missed my sweet fellowship with the Holy Spirit because I was too tired and wanted to sleep. We reason, "God understands how tired I am." Yes, He understands. And that's why He wants us to spend time with Him so we get renewed in our strength.

If we look at the life of Jesus, He was the busiest preacher, always surrounded by people. But He figured out a time to spend with His father when no one could disturb Him. Before daybreak the next morning, Jesus got up and went out to an isolated place to pray (Mark 1:35 NLT). It is this time that renewed Him and gave Him direction for His day.

Here's one thing we can strive to do: Rise up early. Flee from the bed. Before the world starts to speak into our ears, let us get up early and surrender our ears to the Lord. Let us master our sleep, and do not let it master us.

FOOD

Bulk of our time goes in eating or in worrying about what we should be cooking or eating. In fact if we are hungry we can't even think properly and suddenly we find ourselves angry and irritable. This shows how much we have yielded ourselves to the flesh.

It was for food that Esau lost his birthright. It was for food that the Israelites started grumbling soon after they were out from Egypt. "...There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death." (Exodus 16:3).

The Bible says, Man shall not live by bread alone, but a steady stream of words from God's mouth (Deu 8:3; MSG). I wonder when was the last time we fasted. Many Christians think that we should fast so God can be impressed. But we don't fast for God; we fast for ourselves. In fasting as we yield our flesh to Him, our spirit man becomes stronger and more sensitive to His spirit. Ironically only the hungry will fast! If Jesus being God, felt a need to fast, how much more should we!

Fasting also brings direction, and prepares us for the battle that lies ahead. The Bible says that after fasting 40 days and 40 nights, Jesus was hungry and the tempter came to him (Matthew 4:2,3). Note, fasting didn't make Jesus vulnerable for the devil to test him. In fact Jesus prepared for the test by fasting! That's so enlightening!

PHONE

The third god that consumes majority of your time has to be, hands down – our 'Phone'.

It has made us so dependent because it caters to most of our needs – call, SMS, camera, video – and even the Bible!

We are so particular to charge our phone daily, but we don't care when for weeks and months together our spiritual battery is down. We get so upset when our wifi connectivity is lost and we don't bother about how weak our connection with the Holy Spirit is!

I like how Joyce Meyer puts it: "You are not the most important person in the world." So you don't have to check your phone every few minutes. It's ok to keep your inbox unattended. It's ok if you don't get to check your social media to see who is talking about what. It's ok to leave your phone intentionally when you go out. It's time we switch off to the world and switch on to God.

Avoid the desire to touch your phone first thing in the morning and last thing in the night. Be intentional about carrying your physical Bible to church and in times of meditation. Delete your games or apps that are making you addicted.

As athletes running in the race to win the prize for which God has called us heavenward in Christ, we need to invest into making good spiritual habits. As they say, "Habits eat willpower for breakfast."

God has got a great call upon our lives and it's time we pull down every idol that we have placed on the pedestal of our hearts and get serious with God.

Let me conclude with the words of Paul in 1 Corinthians 9: 26

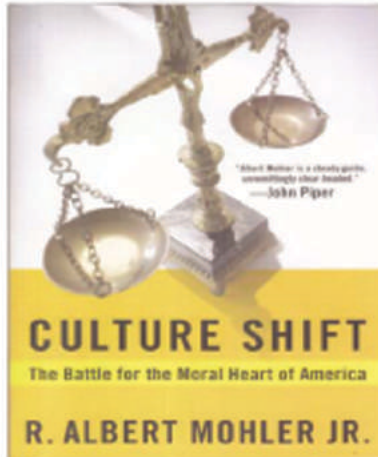
I don't know about you, but I am running bar for the finish line. I am giving it everything I got. No sloppy living for me! I'm staying alert and in top condition. I am not going to get caught napping, telling everyone else all about it and then missing it myself.

Pastor Kim D'souza,

Kingdom Seekers International Church | www.ksim.org | www.pursuehim.net

BOOK REVIEW

Culture Shift: The Battle for the Moral Heart of America



Author: Dr. R. Albert Mohler

PRICE: RS. 200/-

Available at Sathyam Publications

Mass media and technology are exploding. Popular entertainment relentlessly pushes the envelope. Biomedicine stretches ethical boundaries. Political issues shift with the polls. Christian orthodoxy is questioned on every front.

The world in which you live is undergoing a major cultural transformation—one leading to a widespread lack of faith, an increase in moral relativism, and a rejection of absolute truth.

In *Culture Shift*, Dr. R. Albert Mohler—one of today's leading Christian thinkers and spokespersons—addresses these and other tough topics clearly, biblically,

and passionately:

- The effect of the "digital deluge" on individuals and families
- The truth about terrorism
- Christian parents and public schools
- The rise of an aggressive "new atheism"
- The abortion debate

Here is trustworthy help for developing a comprehensive Christian worldview...based on timeless truth.

The Swindoll Study Bible



Author: Charles R. Swindell

Price: Rs. 3000/-

Available at Sathyam Publications

The Swindoll Study Bible offers the best of Chuck Swindoll's wit, charm, pastoral insight, and wise biblical study directly to you as you study God's Word. Chuck's warm, personal style comes across on every page, and his informed, practical insights get straight to the heart of the Bible's message for the world today. Reading each part of this study Bible is like hearing Chuck speak God's Word directly to your heart. It will both encourage readers' faith and draw them deeper into the study of God's Word.

In Chuck's own words: "This study Bible was designed with you in mind. As you read the Scriptures, imagine my sitting beside you and sharing personal stories, important insights, and hard-earned lessons that will encourage you to walk more closely with Jesus Christ. You'll discover the *who, what, where, when, why*, and *how* of the Bible: *Who* wrote it and *when*? *What* does it mean, and *where* did its events occur? *Why* should I trust it? And most importantly, *how* can I apply it today?

"It's that last question more than any other that has fed my passion to publish this Bible. My primary focus in ministry has been teaching biblical *insight for living* . . . for genuine life change. After all, that's why God has communicated His Word to us—so that we may become like His Son, Jesus Christ, the central figure of this Book."

NEWS

BANGALORE NEWS

CHRISTIAN LEADERS CONFERENCE, BANGALORE



All Peoples Church Bangalore will be hosting the Christian Leaders Conference from Wednesday 16 January 2019 - Friday 18 January 2019. Timings will be from 10:00 am - 17:00pm Theme: **LEADING** powerful, practical and transformative insights on church and ministry leadership Venue: United Theological College (UTC) Charles Ranston Hall, 63, Millers Road, Benson Town, Benson Town, Bangalore, Karnataka 560046

AshishRaichur will speak on "Leading Through Time".

He will cover defining vision, planning, organizing, creating and nurturing Kingdom culture, leading through transitions, personal productivity and maintaining personal strength. AshishRaichur is senior pastor at All Peoples Church, Bangalore., Jeyakumar Isaiah will speak on "Teamwork".

He will cover building strong teams and developing great team players. Jeyakumar Isaiah is associate pastor and worship pastor at All Peoples Church, Bangalore. Nancy Ramya will speak on "Winning With People". She will share principles that help people be and become their best. Nancy Ramya is associate pastor and missions director at All Peoples Church, Bangalore. Brian Raj & Deepthy Brian on "Pastoring The Supernatural" Brian & Deepthy will share practical insights on how to initiate, nurture and guide a local church congregation into desiring and manifesting the supernatural in healings, signs and wonders. Brian and Deepthy are associate pastors at All Peoples Church, Bangalore. Registration Fee Rs. 500/- includes study materials, lunch and tea for 3 days. (To be paid by cash at venue). Kindly register on or before 14th January to help plan well. For more information, please contact: +91-80-25452617 (Mon-Fri), +919071822715 (Sat/Sun) Email:

JANUARY 2019

contact@apcwo.org Outstation participants are requested to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements.

Accommodation is available at UTC (Reception: 08023339269 | 08023330502) and PalanaBhavan (Reception: 08023540656, 08023096500). Please contact them directly to make your booking and payment.

Rise in teenage pregnancies

The number of teenage pregnancies in Karnataka has been annually increasing over the past years. In 2014, the data shows 22,122 babies born to mothers aging less than 20 years. These numbers up trended to 34,862 in 2015. It rose again to 35,817 in 2016. There is a 200% increase between 2011 and 2016 in teenage pregnancies. Various medical professionals and activist groups say that the main cause of these teenage pregnancies is a lack of awareness and emphasis on sexual education. A massive 73,531 teen pregnancies are reported in Urban areas out of the 92801 reported as there's an increasing acceptance of casual relationships and exposure to various cultures.. As an increasing education level suggests better decisions from teens, the numbers differ. "Every individual should understand the repercussions of unsafe sex" a sociologist suggests. Doctors say Teen mothers are at a higher risk of pre-eclampsia, anaemia, low birthweight and post-natal depression. The available data also shows the number of teenage pregnancies of Hindus increased while the numbers dipped among Christians and Muslims dipped. Hindu families reported 75,888 teenage pregnancies compared to 15,300 born into Muslim families and 80 into Christian families. Bengaluru, in a latest government report, showed a 165% increase in teenage mothers from 2014 to 2016. Comparatively, Mysuru jumped 561% from 2014 to 2015 and then dipped to 2,237 in 2016. The other urban centers with a significant growth in teenage pregnancies are Mangaluru, Belagavi and Hubballi-Dharwad.

Six historical churches in Bengaluru that withstood the test of time



Bengaluru which is now home to IT giants was not known for high rise structures. While most of the houses and small structures have paved way for the buildings of today, the churches in Bengaluru still stand tall and resplendent in all their glory bearing testimony to the British, French and Portuguese cultures that thrived here once upon a time. The six historic churches in Bangalore are: St. Francis Xavier's Cathedral, Holy Trinity Church, St Mark's Cathedral, St Mary's Basilica, All Saints' Church, and St Andrew's Church:



BIBLE SEMINARY



WHEEL CHAIR MINISTRY



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BOOK SHOP



BIBLE MUSEUM



Religious Extremists Threaten Children at Sunday School in Southern India



Police and news media further joined forces with religious extremists in recent attacks in southern India, including one where a mob terrorized children in Sunday school, sources said. In Tamil Nadu state, Pastor Selva Raj was leading a worship service in Amathur village, Virudhunagar District, when a mob of some 300 religious extremists on November 11 charged in and demanded that they vacate the building immediately, he said. Members of the extremists group destroyed a shed in front of the building and began threatening the children gathered for Sunday school in foul language, he said. "They took away the Bible storybooks and some song and activity books from the children and tore them into pieces," Pastor Raj told MorningStar News. "They scared the children away by telling them that they will be beaten up if they are seen in the church premises ever again."

British parliament group report names India for religious freedom abuses



Earlier in December of 2018, a group of British parliamentarians presented a "Commentary on the Current State of

Freedom of Religion or Belief" and called out 27 countries for religious freedom abuses. They presented the report on December 10 – the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. India was one of the nations on that list. Due to a planned campaign by religious nationalists, between four and five churches have been attacked every day recently, according to sources from Voice of the Martyrs Canada. Anti-conversion charges are

also often used in India to suppress religious minority voices and prevent other Hindus from converting to other religions, including Christianity. Many Christians in India didn't have the freedom to openly celebrate Christmas this year. Hindu nationalists and hostile neighbours make life very difficult and even dangerous for Indian believers, especially in more rural areas with less oversight. However, this doesn't mean Indian Christians are dampening ministry efforts. Despite the persecution, they are still reaching out to their neighbours with the Gospel, training Christian leaders, and planting churches.

Christians stage peace rally in Varanasi against forced church closures

Christian Churches in eastern Uttar Pradesh gathered in Varanasi, the holy city of Hinduism, for a great "peace rally" because of Christian persecution," said Rev David. This problem affects especially the District of Varanasi where right-wing religious fanatics have forced "hundreds of house



churches to close." Rev Nehemiah Christie, an activist with the Alliance Defending Freedom, an India-wide Christian network, noted that the rally "was successful." Christians "came out to speak up against the oppression and violence" with "more than 1,100 people attending the peace rally on 1st December" against anti-Christian persecution. Those present rallied for peace, expressing solidarity with the persecuted churches. They also demanded "from the government that church services be allowed to start" again and that Article 25 of the Constitution on freedom of religion be upheld. For the clergyman, "Churches are being attacked because the high caste thinks that the all scheduled castes and other backward communities will be converted. They look at it as a threat. Because then they cannot take advantage of these communities." According to Christian NGOs monitoring anti-Christian persecution in India, Uttar Pradesh has recorded the highest number of anti-Christian incidents, 48 out of a total of 95 in the last three months. More generally, hate crimes against minorities and Dalits have increased in India over the past three years, including rape and lynching, all this done in the name of religion.

Growing Chinese nationalism: celebrating Christmas is 'a burning shame'



For the Chinese people, celebrating Christmas is "a burning shame" and "an aggression against Chinese

culture"; rather than celebrating the birth of Jesus on December 25, it is better to celebrate the birth of Mao Zedong on December 26th. These are some of the slogans that echoed across some cities in China this week, following the ban on displaying Christmas decorations and prohibiting Christmas-themed gatherings. For several years there have been attempts to reduce the impact and "spiritual pollution" that Christmas causes among the Chinese population, especially in the university world. This year prohibitions included the exchange of good wishes, decorations in the windows of the shopping centers, Christmas songs and sales. In recent days the war against Christmas has taken on even more nationalistic tones. On Christmas Eve, in Sixian County (Anhui), Dong Xuefeng, principal of the city's primary school, gathered schoolchildren and gave a speech saying that Christmas is a disgrace to the Chinese people because of past humiliations received from the powers Western, all Christian.

Hong Kong Protestants pray dressed in black in support of persecuted mainland Christians



Hundreds of Hong Kong Protestants turned up for prayers dressed in black as an expression of solidarity with Christians facing persecution in

mainland China. The idea of wearing mourning black in solidarity with suffering fellow Christians spread online over the past few days. The action will be repeated next Sunday. According to the organisers, at least 47,000 people were reached by the message on social media. Four of the five Christian groups that organised the dress-in-black action were founded after Hong Kong's 2014 Occupy movement, a civil disobedience campaign for greater democracy in the city. The goal of this action is to raise awareness of the fate of many Protestant communities in China. In recent weeks, three unofficial Protestant churches have been closed,

namely the Zion Church in Beijing, the Early Rain Covenant Church in Chengdu, and the Rongguili Church in Guangzhou.

New Christian in Uganda Loses Family, Plantation for Leaving Islam



A convert to Christianity in eastern Uganda lost his livelihood, wife and children to irate relatives and other Muslims, sources said. In Masaba village, Sironko District, a leader of the village mosque on Dec. 7 led a mob to MuhamudGusolo's banana

plantation and destroyed it after Gusolo's father objected to him leaving Islam for Christ. His father, MujenyaGusoloZibail, had told him in November that he would not receive his inheritance and issued a stern warning not to set foot again on the family land, he said. "My father confronted me for being a disgrace to the family as a result of my conversion to Christ," the 28-year-old Gusolo told Morning Star News. "Since my expulsion from the community, no one in my community has come to my aid. My father has openly denied me as his son, and the community has openly threatened me, saying, 'No burial rites for you, a kaffir[infidel].'"

Spike in Arrests of Christians in Iran Especially Severe this Christmas Season, Sources Say



Arrests of Christians in Iran usually spike as Christmas approaches, but this year has been especially severe, sources said. More than

150 Christians have been detained across the officially Shia Muslim country in the last month, and arrests are expected to continue. "The current situation has been described by some as unprecedented," Miles Windsor, advocacy and development manager at Middle East Concern (MEC), told Morning Star News. "There are a huge number of arrests and detentions." An uptick in arrests is expected around Christmas, Windsor said, when many Iranians are attracted to Christianity and the government seeks to deter interest through intimidation. "Recently it seems there is definitely a coordinated and determined campaign to decimate the Christian community and to spread fear and intimidation," Windsor said.



WORLD NEWS

Franklin Graham Calls Out Politicians, Media, Calls them 'Vicious and Relentless'



Franklin Graham took to Facebook to call out the news media as “vicious and relentless.” The evangelist wrote, “Well, it's the day after Christmas—and I'm tired. How about you?” He continued, “Don't get me wrong, I enjoy seeing family and friends and hearing from people I haven't heard from in a long time. But I'm tired, and it's not just the season.” He continued, referring to the government shut down, “I'm tired of all the fighting in Washington. You can't turn on the news or read the headlines online without being overwhelmed by all of the political squabbling (to put it mildly). The news media are so vicious and relentless in their fault finding and their attacks on the President.” He wrote, “It's just sickening. We have the potential for so much good and so much progress for our nation, but Washington is squandering it away over political agendas.” Graham ended his post by giving thanks to God for being consistent and unchanging. He said, “I'm thankful that I have put my faith and trust in God who never grows weary and is never shut down, no matter what the problems are.”

Record High Say Religion Can't Answer Life's Problems, Poll Shows



An overwhelming majority of Americans say religion is important in their lives, although a record high says religion does not

have the answers for life's problems, according to a new Gallup poll. The survey released Dec. 24, shows 72 percent of Americans say religion is important in their lives, including 51 percent who say it's “very important.” But that latter number is near the historic low of 49 percent, recorded in 2015. When the question was asked first in 1952, 75 percent of Americans said religion was “very important.” “Although these findings show that religion is

still very important to a slim majority, they provide further evidence of the long-term decline in the importance of religion in Americans' lives,” Gallup's Megan Brennan wrote.

Tsunami Kills 430 in Indonesia, the Government Prepares for a Possible Second



At least 430 people are dead following the eruption of the Anak Krakatau volcano which triggered a massive tsunami in Indonesia. According to the New York Post, When Krakatau erupted over the Holiday weekend, land from the mountain began to shed and part of the Sunda Strait collapsed into the ocean. The landslide then set off tsunami-sized waves that reached heights of more than 6 ½ feet before they crashed into villages on the Java and Sumatra coasts. According to CNN, the estimated death toll at this time is 430 people with more than 150 people still missing. Reportedly 1,500 people were injured and almost 22,000 people were displaced. The NYP reports that there are likely more victims of the tragedy who are yet to be found, as search and rescue efforts have been hampered because of bad weather. While many people are mourning the loss of their loved ones and homes, scientists are warning citizens to stay far away from the coast. According to the NYP, there is a significant risk being posed by the possibility of a second landslide. Scientists suspect that another landslide could trigger a second tsunami.

Boy with Terminal Cancer Receives 40,000 Christmas Cards plus One from the White House



40,000 people are wishing one Louisiana boy a Merry Christmas in an “overwhelming” gesture. Drake Quibodeaux is a young Louisiana boy

who was diagnosed with the lethal Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG) earlier this year. When a family friend learned of his severe diagnosis, they reached out to the public asking them flood Drake's mailbox with Christmas cards. While Drake's original goal was to receive 190 cards, he has

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actually received over 40,000 greetings plus one very special card from the President of the United States.

World's First Christian Airline Is Set to Launch, Will Provide Churches, Missionaries with Easier Travel



A Texas-based aviation ministry announced that they are working to become the first Christian airline in the world. According to CBN News, the ministry called Judah 1 shared last week that the Federal Aviation Administration had accepted their application to become its own airline as opposed to a private operator. Currently, Judah 1 is providing their service to Christians traveling domestically and internationally for mission trips and religious tours, CBN News reports. Judah 1 is working to become an airline to make the traveling experience for missionaries easier. In a video outlining the ministry's growth plan, the ministry's founder and CEO Everett Aaron noted that this move will eliminate the hectic procedures of security checks and lost baggage at traditional airports.

Israel Works to Demine Land Near Jesus' Baptismal Site



After 50 years as a military zone, the area which houses seven monasteries and is known as the "land of monasteries," is being cleared of landmines and given back to the various surrounding churches. [According to Haaretz](#), the area, which is thought to be the site where John the Baptists baptized Jesus, was under Jordanian control until 1967 when the Six Day War claimed the area as a war zone and it was mined and booby-trapped. Now, more than five decades later, the Mine Action Authority at the defense ministry, the Halo Foundation, the Engineering Corps and 4CI are working together to remove all of the mine and unexploded ordinance there. So far, the group has removed the mines from three monasteries. Once the traps and explosives are completely removed, the Mine Action

Authority intends on returning the area to the surrounding churches and opening them up to tourists, as they once were. According to Haaretz, 50 out of the 250 total acres have been swept and cleaned of mines. The Mine Action Committee plans to finish the project by the end of 2019.

Australia Confirms the Move of Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem



After mentioning the possible embassy move earlier this year, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison is

preparing to formally recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. According to the Times of Israel, the Australian government approved the move in a late-night national security meeting, Tuesday, but it will likely be delayed due to the exorbitant price tag of the relocation. Reportedly, the decision was only passed by Morrison's cabinet members after extensive conversation. Additionally, the parties involved agreed that the move would happen at a later date because it would cost an estimated \$200 million. The Times of Israel reports that a source confirmed to them that a temporary consular office will be established in Jerusalem until the country is ready to pay for the hefty fee for relocation.

Apple Removes Christian App for Being Anti-Gay



Apple has removed a Christian ministry's app from its store after LGBT supporters said the app was

"dangerous" and "bigoted." Living Hope Ministries created the app about three years ago. The gay rights group, Truth Wins Out, however, filed a petition at Change.org saying the app was "hateful." "The app falsely portrays being gay as an 'addiction', 'sickness', and 'sin,'" the petition said. After the decision, Truth Wins Out executive director Wayne Besen said Apple did "the right thing." "We thank Apple for exemplifying corporate responsibility and taking swift action to remove a dangerous app that stigmatizes and demeans LGBT people," he said. Ricky Chalette, executive director of Living Hope Ministries, however, says the ministry is "saddened" about the decision to remove the app.



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