


TRUTH alive

DIGEST ON CHRISTENDOM

VOLUME 10 ISSUE 13 FEBRUARY 2020 Rs. 100/-



“As Lent is the time for greater love, listen to Jesus' thirst... 'Repent and believe' Jesus tells us. What are we to repent? Our indifference, our hardness of heart. What are we to believe? Jesus thirsts even now, in your heart and in the poor – He knows your weakness. He wants only your love, wants only the chance to love you.”

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- By contributing in any ways possible.



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Sathyam Ministries is an organization, dedicated to transforming the lives of the people and communities by showing love and care for individuals for the past 26 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 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. 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.

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- Special School
- Bible Seminary
- Church Planting
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- Orphanage
- Disability Centre
- Leaders Conference
- Publications



“NOT BY MIGHT NOR BY POWER, BUT BY MY SPIRIT,” SAYS THE LORD OF HOSTS. - ZECHARIAH 4:6

My Dad's lap

EDITORIAL

Isaac Vadavana



My dad's lap was my favorite place to be at every church service! He makes us kids sit right next to him every Sunday and always make sure we pay attention and we actually sing the songs and stuff! He also used to punish us when we got back home if we did anything disturbing or bad during the service. This made us realise the importance and sacredness of worship and coming to the presence of the Lord. Always missed not having dad at church when he's out travelling for ministry!

I still remember one day in church when I was really small, the pastor was preaching on Abraham being tested by the offering of Isaac. The pastor was like, "Isaac's father took the knife up to kill Isaac." Man, the second I heard this, I got up from my dad's seat and ran to my mom on the other side and started crying! The poor baby Isaac!

The story of Abraham is one of my favorites and last day I was going through that passage again and found this really cool message for me and all of us as Christians! Genesis 15 is an important chapter in the Bible, where God promises Abraham a child through Sarai, which through whom his heir will be a blessing. God asked Abraham to look up at the sky and count the stars and God promised that's how big your descendants are going to be! What an incredible message!

But in Genesis 16, not too long after God promised Abraham a son, in verse 2 we read, "So Sarai said to Abram, 'now behold, the Lord has prevented me from bearing children. Please go in to my maid; perhaps I will obtain children through her.'" I guess Sarai was too impatient to wait on the Lord's timing. So this is what she does- She literally gives God back a plan, she thinks God's plan is not practical and gives God another "better" plan in her own mind! She asks Abraham to go into her servant and bore a son!

Sarah tried to outsmart God.

Don't we all do this in our daily lives? I know I do. We are sometimes too impatient to wait on the Lord's timing in our lives. He is the Creator of all and the one who knows us well. He knows when we need something and how to provide it at the right time! we just need to trust Him and whatever His will is, let it be for His glory!

My dear brothers and sisters, this is something I've personally learned this year, we have such an amazing God and we actually can put our trust in Him and He will bring to completion what He has promised us! As we step into a brand new decade, let us strive to put our trust in the Lord's timing and not just say I trust God and then plan our own ways with our smartness! Jesus is always better! :)

Isaac Vadavana
Vice Chairman
Sathyam Service Trust



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VOLUME 10 | ISSUE 13 | FEBRUARY 2020 | Rs. 100/-

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★ ABOUT TRUTH ALIVE ★

Ever since the first issue in 2009, Truth Alive has been a leading monthly magazine for Christian families around the globe. It is published by Truth Ministries, a humanitarian charity into social ministry, education and evangelization.

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A Christian Brethren Institution to train faithful men to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and establish local assemblies according to the New Testament pattern.

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OUR AIM

- Teach Systematic Theology and Biblical Theology
- Teach the students to rightly divide the Word of Truth (2 Tim. 2:15).
- Prepare students to fulfill the Great Commission of our Lord.
- Equip the men to establish local assemblies in the New Testament Pattern.
- Train men to preach the Gospel in various parts of India.
- Teach the laymen in the local assemblies to fulfill their duties in their respective assemblies.
- Give basic training in personal evangelism & homiletics.

WHY STUDY AT SATHYAM THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY ?

- Ministry oriented training.
- Leadership training.
- Encouraging successful graduates for future ministry.
- Sports and games.
- Opportunity for research studies.

**LOCATION**

Sathyam Theological Seminary is situated at Kariyoor, Thiruvalla, Pathanamthitta (Dist.), Kerala. We preferred this location with the aim of focusing church planting in different villages of South and North India.

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3. Certificate of Theology

It is a one year program in English and minimum qualification is 10th failed or passed.

4. Basic computer awareness course**CHAPEL SERVICE**

We give prime priority to the Chapel Service. It is a must for every student to participate in the Morning and Evening Chapel Service. Primarily students are given the experience in preaching from this service. Students will have the opportunity to lead a service and preach the word of God.

**LIBRARY**

Seminary has a gargantuan library having more than 50000 books and almost all periodicals. Each year we plan to add more volumes. Books include commentaries of different renowned authors, Basic Theology, Church History, Hermeneutics, Homiletics, Preaching aids, Devotional books etc. with computer & internet facilities.

**PRACTICAL TRAINING**

There are various ministry opportunities to help students to develop their individual ministerial skills. Every weekend students go for outreach Ministries in the nearby village and cities.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

One year is divided into 3 Semesters. Examinations are conducted at the end of each Semester. For a minimum pass, one has to obtain 60% aggregate marks in each subject.



Capture the Vision for Souls

What is Worship?

Randall McElwain



Worship has become a battlefield in many churches today. Sadly, worship of “one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all” (Eph 4:6) has become something that divides rather than unifying the church.

With all our attention to worship styles, we can fail to ask the deeper question, “What is worship?” Is worship simply a twenty-minute music segment? Is it an emotional catharsis created as we sway to the rhythm of a praise band?

The Bible shows that true worship is far more than a scheduled service or an emotional experience. One of my favorite definitions of worship comes from Warren Wiersbe: “Worship is the response of all that we are to all that God is.” True worship affects all of life.

There are several words associated with worship in Scripture. These words show what it means to worship “in spirit and in truth.”

1) *Worship is reverent submission to God*

The word most often translated “worship” in the Bible carries the idea of “falling down” before God. In worship, we bow in reverent submission to God. We see this word in Revelation when John saw the worship in heaven:

The twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, “Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and

power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created” (Rev 4:10-11).

Our modern word worship comes from an Old English word, “worthship.” To offer “worthship” meant to recognize and honor a person's worthy. This is what it means to worship God – to give Him the honor of which He is truly worthy. In true worship we bow our hearts in humble submission to an all-powerful God.

2) *Worship is obedient service to God*

Another New Testament word shows our obedient service to God. Paul used this word when he wrote:

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship (Rom 12:1).

A holy God requires obedient service by a holy people. This word shows that worship is more than what happens on Sunday in a church building. Worship does not end when the public meeting ends; true worship affects all areas of our life.

3) *Worship is joyful celebration of God*

The word “praise” is used more than 130 times in the book of Psalms to refer to worship. Much of today's joyful praise and worship music shows that worship should celebrate God.

We must never lose our reverence for God, but we should never lose our joy. We do not worship an austere and distant God. We worship a good God

(To be continued....)



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An Arrow in the hand of the Lord



Jolly Ann Thomas

The bow and arrow has been an indispensable weapon of warfare used by both ancient and modern civilizations. It continues to live on in the well contested Olympic sport of archery. True to its name, the imagery that an arrow brings to the human mind is quite telling – sharp and piercing, and easy to picturize. Hence, it is not surprising that our Heavenly Father communicates to us with figurative references to arrows all throughout the Bible, to perhaps drive home His point better! (Jeremiah 9:8, Ezekiel 5:16, Psalm 127:4, Ephesians 6:16) Let's recall the key purpose and characteristic of an arrow. Its key purpose is to precisely strike one and only one target at a time. Its key characteristic is the ability to pierce deeply. In warfare and hunting, the arrow tip is intentionally sharpened and poisoned to ensure fatal wounding of the target. True; an archer is behind the scenes aiming the arrow towards the target and releasing it skillfully. Let's take the archer out of the picture. If an arrow were to have a mind of its own, it would need to channel all its energy into executing its single mission. The targeted flight calls for an undivided focus; the arrow cannot afford to see anything but the target. Instead, what if an arrow decides to gaze all around, blurring its focus? What if the arrow feels disheartened about its microcosmic target area and dwells upon the vast cosmos around, which it cannot cover, thus doubting the significance of its mission? What if the arrow compares itself with other arrows shooting by, some of which might appear mightier, faster, or prettier?

The hard reality is that no matter how hard the arrow tries it can never successfully take over its neighbour's path or target. In every failed such attempt, our protagonist would have missed its own mark as well as messed another's.

Isaiah 49:2 says that we are polished arrows concealed in the Lord's quiver. Just like the physical arrow, every one of us in the Lord Jesus Christ is a powerful arrow, meant to fulfil a unique objective at a given time. Not only that, the archer who is carrying us, is none other than the Lord Himself. We only need to partner with our Father, yield to Him, and see the very same thing He sees as the target. In doing so, absolute and sure victory is inevitable.

It does not matter whether a believer is in an influential position or not, in terms of being in the public eye. Every believer is equally precious to the Lord. He does not show favouritism (Deuteronomy 10:17, Romans 2:11). 1 Corinthians 12:12-17 talks of us being different parts of one body. Every part, including seemingly insignificant ones, has its dedicated function to keep the body whole and perfect. The countable few souls in a person's reach might be the specific targets assigned to them, whom no public evangelist might have been able to touch. There could be a thousand people around us out of our reach; there could be a dozen giftings in other believers around us, which we long for; but that should not be a reason for us to lack excitement about the task on our plate. Whatever we do, we are supposed to do wholeheartedly as if we were doing unto the Lord Himself (Colossians 3:23) – an exhortation that levels the playing field.



**THE 9TH GRADUATION CEREMONY
OF
SATHYAM THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
28th MARCH 2020, 6 p.m**

at Justin's Home Ground Kaviyoor, Thiruvalla

BIBLE SEMINAR

26th - 31st March, 10 am - 4 pm

SUB : CHURCH INCLUSION

INVITATION LETTER

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ

On behalf of the Sathyam Theological Seminary, I want to take this opportunity to invite you to the **Graduation Ceremony** of the 9th Batch students of **Sathyam Theological Seminary, Kerala**. This event will be held on **28th March 2020, Saturday**, at **Kaviyoor Retreat Centre, Kerala** at **05:00 PM**.

It is my pleasure to invite you and your family to this auspicious occasion as well as for the **Bible Seminar conduct from 26th -31st March**.

Sathyam Ministries is an organisation 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 works, sending our gospel team to various parts of India to spread the good news about Jesus and to serve the poor and organize church leaders conferences all over India for the past 31 years. Moreover, we carry out evangelical programs 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.

Expecting your blessings and presence for this occasion.

Come and be blessed.

May God Bless you.

Thank you.

Yours Sincerely,



Br. C.V. Vadavana
(Founder & Chairman)
9446513555, 9447126182

Thiruvalla

03-01-2020

SPECIAL-NEEDS SIBLINGS EXPERIENCE QUESTIONS & GRIEF SEASONS TOO

Lisa Jamieson



Just like their parents, it is common for special-needs siblings to experience seasons of grief associated with the disabilities affecting their family. Unfortunately, the internal struggles of children in a special needs family can be inadvertently overlooked by stretched parents or naïve mentors and church leaders. Sometimes parents simply feel ill-equipped to handle their children's questions, anger or sadness. Nonetheless, these young people need freedom to wrestle with questions and explore their sorrow where they can receive rich amounts of empathy, ample space to process their feelings and opportunities to sift their perspectives through biblical principles. Siblings in a family affected by disability need information and want to make sense of their situation. Their questions, feelings and perspectives typically change through different developmental stages of life. Here are some of the questions my own children were able to articulate—sometimes accompanied by significant emotion—as they were growing up in a special needs family:

childhood: *Why can't I hold my baby sister?*

adolescence: *Why does our family have to be so high-maintenance?*

adulthood: *How do I stop feeling guilty when I get to go away and have a break (or a life beyond my family) but my parents get no relief from their caregiving responsibilities?*

How parents, mentors, pastors and other

church leaders respond may be similar to how we have conversations with our young people about other tender issues like sex—with more complex and vulnerable layers of information as they mature.

Too often, children wonder about things silently or something limits their ability to articulate questions or concerns (e.g., age, emotional maturity, confusion or overwhelm, feeling unsafe to express deep thoughts and feelings without judgment). Children benefit from help exploring and articulating what is ambiguous or confusing to them, especially when they sense a freedom to do so where their emotions will be honored rather than edited.

So, what are some of the questions special-needs siblings wonder about?

CHILDHOOD

What's going on?

When is my turn?

Why do mom and dad (and maybe older siblings) seem worried/sad/stressed?

Why is my sibling different?

Am I good enough?

Why do people look at him/her/us that way?

ADOLESCENCE

What do my friends think?

Why did I get to be the healthy one?

How can I get a break?

Who am I apart from this unique

(To be continued...)

For more details, please visit keyministry.org

Competition

Joni Fareckson Jada



I am a competitor, even though I can't move much. But I'm not the only one. There's Thad Mandsager. When his parents invited me to their home, I watched Thad and his brother, Nathan, play Nerf basketball in the hallway.

Thad was twelve years old at the time, and because he is paralyzed from the neck down, he operates his power wheelchair with a chin control. This kid balanced the Nerf basketball on his mouth stick and flicked the ball up against the backboard to make his basket. He asked, "Hey, Joni, want to give it a try?" I replied, "Okay, but fair warning: I just might beat you." Wishful thinking! Me, the famous mouth artist, could barely balance the Nerf ball on the mouth stick. As far as flicking it for a layup, forget it. I couldn't even hit the backboard.

Another time the Mandsager family came over for a barbecue. Thad brought his Nerf baseball bat. Clenching the bat between his teeth, he sent the ball sailing over the backyard fence. "Hey, Joni," said he, spitting out the bat, "want to give it a try?" Three strikes later I was out.

Needless to say, Thad is doing okay. He is such an inspiration!

You don't have to overcome the kinds of obstacles Thad has to inspire other people. The Scripture today reminds us that taking a genuine interest in the welfare of others—taking part in their activities,

I am a competitor, even though I can't move much. But I'm not the only one. There's Thad Mandsager. When his parents invited me to their home, I watched Thad and his brother, Nathan, play Nerf basketball in the hallway.

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(To be continued...)

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30th Anniversary

GRADUATION



Sathyam Ministries Family retreat

March 23-24 Time: 9 am - 5pm

This event is aimed at families touched by disability to provide an opportunity for fun and leisure in the comfort of a safe and accessible family camp environment. This was planned because most families with persons with disability have difficulties going away from their everyday life as the whole family.

This is often because of financial difficulties, finding accessible places for fun and opportunities for the main caregiver to actually take a break as even if families do get away, the caregiver's responsibilities remain. These barriers

will be kept in mind while planning this family retreat for families. Identification of families touched by disability will be done by churches and organizations keeping in mind the families that most need such a break. Individuals with all kinds of disabilities regardless of age and sex are considered while planning for the event.

Volunteers for the event will include people from the churches (Short-term missionaries-STMs). These STMs will be partnered with a person with disability each thus providing opportunities to develop friendships that will last beyond the retreat.

Objectives :

- ➔ To provide opportunities for leisure through accessible, age-appropriate activities
- ➔ To facilitate meaningful conversations with families who understand the challenges of life with disability

➤ What will be covered in the training?

Family retreat: Introduction and history, Components of a family retreat, How to plan for a retreat, how to conduct training of volunteers (STM)

➤ Who is the training for?

This training is aimed at leaders who may conduct a family retreat with a team or if you are likely to encourage others to

- ➔ To provide respite for primary caregivers of those with disabilities
- ➔ To provide opportunities for churches to become involved with brothers and sisters with disabilities

conduct a family retreat.

➤ Who will conduct the training?

The country liaison from Joni and Friends, US, will be conducting the training. She has been involved with conducting family retreats and training for it for years.

➤ What language will the training be conducted in?

English

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Never bet against this family...

Bob Shank



Dear Joe,

Faithfulness: *strict or thorough in the performance of duty; true to one's word.* That should be qualification #1 to look for when vetting a leader

Today, there are approximately 15 million Jews in the world; about 80% live in either the United States or Israel. They represent less than 2% of today's American population... yet, *two of the frontrunners for the Democrats' presidential candidate are Jewish*

One is an avowed capitalist, and is the 9th name on the Forbes 400 list of billionaires. The other is a self-described democratic socialist, who lived – briefly – as a young man on a kibbutz, and took his bride to the Soviet Union on their honeymoon. One is divorced with a live-in partner, who visits the synagogue on Jewish holidays; the other has a long-term marriage and does not practice any religion. **Their common denominator**: if 23andMe has a comprehensive search algorithm, both would trace their origins to an obscure Middle Eastern herdsman who had a Divine Encounter on a dark desert night.

"The Lord had said to Abram, 'Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.'" (Genesis 12: 1-3).

Later, as the unilateral relationship was in its earliest stages, God doubled-down: *"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God."* (Genesis 17:3-8)

In legal terms, God established an "everlasting covenant" with Abraham and his heirs. And, it

was unilateral: a promise that was not founded on any worthiness on the part of the beneficiaries. The offspring of Abraham/Isaac/Jacob – *the race that we know as the Jews* – would be born into benefits that were promised by God to their forebears. His blessing... and a land of their own, forever.

So what is it that makes Jews – with only two-tenths of one percent of the world population – win 23% of all Nobel Prizes? The fact that Jews are disproportionately successful in many fields of endeavor is undeniable. The statistics simply speak for themselves: Jews make up less than half of one percent of the world's population, but they consistently have made up more than 20% of the Forbes 400 list. But, it is not just about making money; 30% of Nobel Prize winners **in science** are Jewish. In virtually every industry successful Jews are disproportionately represented. Some attribute these anomalies to tradition or culture; could there be more to it?

In the financial world, "the Invisible Hand" is often referenced as the unseen force that moves and benefits free-market economies. Could there be an Invisible Hand that is the unseen force that controls people – as individuals, as groups – through the flow of history? Is the Chaos Theory behind what seems to be an out-of-control world with virulent viruses and plunging international markets, or is there an Almighty God who is, in fact, moving the players on the board in keeping with His intentions?

God promised Abraham that his future family would be unusually advantaged; but, *"from everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked."* (Luke 12:48)

Faithfulness: *strict or thorough in the performance of duty; true to one's word.* That's the way God rolls; *would that we would have leaders available to us with the same winsome quality...*



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Sathyam Ministries is an organisation dedicated in 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.

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PREPARING FOR OLD AGE-ATTENDING TO OUR PHYSICAL HEALTH

Dr. Thomas Kulanjiyil, Chicago



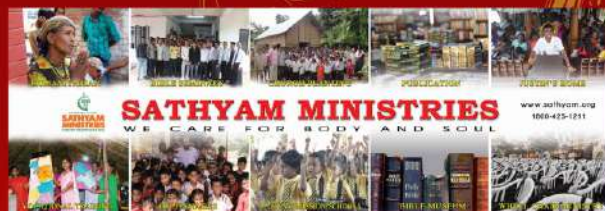
One major area that needs careful attention in the process of aging is physical health. A healthy lifestyle that includes balanced diet, exercise, and rest, along with routine medical checkups are necessary to keep ourselves healthy throughout life, especially in old age. But in spite of all that we do to keep ourselves in good physical shape, we do not have the absolute control over our health. Within a short span of time, our health status can significantly change. As discussed in the previous article, there are certain illnesses and health challenges that are particularly associated with aging such as cataracts, macular degeneration and glaucoma, hearing impairments, stroke, and heart attack. Some of these conditions are physically, mentally, and psychologically debilitating, and we may end up in conditions where someone else will have to make treatment decisions for us, and sometimes we would not have approved those types of medical interventions, if we had the power to choose them. For this reason, it is important that we think through those medical options while we are still in good cognitive faculty. I would like to introduce two helpful choices in this matter- The Living Will, and The Durable Power of Attorney.

The Living Will allows a competent individual to provide medical directives in advance, in an explicit manner, as how he or she must be treated

in the event of an unanticipated medical situation when the person is legally incompetent to make an autonomous medical decision. Strokes and heart failures are good examples for these kinds of conditions. The Living Will facilitates physicians to make medical decisions that will honor the patient's wishes. Based on the directives in the Will, the physicians can now proceed with the treatment options. In some situations, the decision would be not to proceed with aggressive treatments but to allow the person to die a natural death, because that is what the patient expressed in his or her Will.

The Durable Power of Attorney is another option opened for all, but especially for older adults. In this, an individual could prepare a legal document in advance where he or she could delegate someone to act on his or her behalf, should he or she becomes legally incompetent to act. This document allows a deputy to exercise control over an unforeseen situation where a medical decision will, have to be made, such as whether to continue or discontinue artificial feeding, or to withhold or to terminate mechanical life support.

It is prudent to have either a Living Will or a Durable Power of Attorney prepared ahead of time because these important health-care choices not only help us manage our lives more circumspectly, but also make it easier for our family members to handle medical emergencies that involve our lives.



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Isaiah 55:10- "My word is like the snow and the rain that comedown from the sky to water to the earth. They make the crops grow and provide seed for sowing and bread for eating."

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Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The heart for gospel-driven Truth, which is tantamount to the word of God, is insatiable.

Sathyam Ministries, being inquisitive to hunt down the truth of Christianity, is going to take up this challenging task through the publication of an English Christian Magazine, "Truth Alive".

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Thanks & Regards

C.V.Vadavana (Founder & Chairman,
Sathyam Service Trust)
Shilpa Kurian (Editor in charge)
Narmida John (Sub editor)
Sami C. Vadavana (Sub editor)
Abraham Markose (Operation Manager)

TRUTH ALIVE

Truth Alive is a monthly Christian magazine produced by the Sathyam Trust and edited, printed and published on its behalf by Sathyam Publications.

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DEALINGS: All matters for publication should reach us before the 15th of the previous month along with the full payment.



Does My Child Need to be Healed? A Father's Reflections

... and a little child shall lead them. ISAIAH 11:6

Rev. Steve Bundy



Sitting at the dinner table one evening, my four-year-old son surprised us with a profound question about his older brother. “Daddy,” Jaron said, “why did God make Caleb with special needs?” Gathering my thoughts, I responded, “What did you ask, Son?” Jaron repeated his question without hesitation, “Why did God make Caleb with special needs?”

Caleb, who was eight at the time, was born with a deletion on his number 2 chromosome, resulting in developmental disabilities, intellectual and physical delays, muscular dystrophy and autism. Caleb didn't walk until he was six years old, has challenging autistic characteristics, and has never spoken a word.

I was amazed that such a deep question was coming from my preschooler and paused, trying to find a way to express my thoughts on a level he could comprehend. Honestly, part of my own heart still struggles with the “why” of it all. I'm not sure any parent can fully satisfy this question, although many have found great comfort in the plans and purposes of God.

I turned to my wife Melissa, who had a look of expectation, wondering how I was going to answer Jaron. Finally, I broke the silence, and began explaining how Caleb was like any other boy except due to his “special needs” he had to interact differently. God had a plan when he created Caleb and wanted to use him to touch other peoples' lives. I told Jaron that one day when Caleb went to heaven he would be healed. He would run, talk and play like all the other children.

My answer seemed to appease our questioning theologian for a moment. Then he rolled his head around, looked up to the sky and asked, “Why doesn't God just heal him now?”

Melissa's eyes were filling with tears (mine were wet, too). Such a simple follow-up question! With a complicated, some- times heart-wrenching answer.

We told Jaron that it was not God's desire to heal his brother right now, but that God loved Caleb very much whether he could speak or walk or talk. All people are created in God's image and we bring him glory by being who he created us to be. I spoke of the gifts and abilities Caleb has and how he can have a full life in spite of his disabilities. I also reassured Jaron that my answers may not make complete sense because sometimes we simply have to trust God even when we don't understand his ways. In short, I told him that Caleb did not need to be healed.

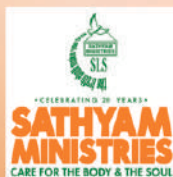
I wish I could say I had drawn such a simple conclusion shortly after Caleb's birth. Unfortunately, that was not the case. The first two years of Caleb's life were a huge struggle for me, and consequently us as a family. At that time I couldn't yet accept Caleb for who he was—I needed him to be healed. I experienced anger, grief and depression over his condition. I desperately wanted him to be healed and felt my prayers fell silent at heaven's doors. My God seemed impotent as my world crumbled. My biblical theology and real-life experience were out of alignment. I labored to interpret Scripture out of my experience, instead of allowing Scripture to interpret my experience. Let me explain. I had been impacted by a theology that erroneously emphasized God's will for all to be healed... 100 percent of the time! No exceptions!! In fact, if there was a sickness, disability or ailment of some sort, it was due to a lack of faith on that person's part, or the work of Satan, or sin in one's life, or a combination of all three.

(To be continued...)

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Project: Wabuku

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After much prayer, rounds of class voting, and an executive decision, we finally decided on a project to support. PROJECT: WABUKU was born on December 11, 2019. Lisa Kappeler and her team has been working in Wabuku, Papua New Guinea pioneering the Uriay (pronounced OO-de-eye) Bible Translation diligently for decades amidst transition. She now has new co-workers who are beginning the language learning process in order to continue teaching the people the gospel.

Our goal is \$10,000, which is more than any graduating class in Jackson has ever fund-raised, but we are well in our way. We would like to raise this so that Lisa and the team can continue to translate and teach with fewer financial worries. The New Testament is about 46% complete! It takes approximately four hours of work and \$35 dollars to translate a single verse. \$10,000 would enable about 285 Bible verses to be translated.

We are so thankful for the opportunity to partner with our brothers and sisters on the other side of the globe, and with you all here in The States. It is so encouraging to know that our God is more than able to use jars of clay from all over the world to complete His mission!

For more details, please visit

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Break the yolk....

Kalpana Daniel



The new year is replete with memories of the past year, and overflowing with resolutions on how to better our lives. There is an echo of health and fitness everywhere I turn. I feel the pressure to tone it down too, else I may not fit in. And amidst these fancy articles and advertisements, I chance upon a small testimony by Mother Teresa. She talks about a starving child whom she picked up from a street in Calcutta. By the look in her eyes, Mother understood that this child was hungry and she offered her a loaf of bread. However, she ate this loaf very slowly, crumb by crumb. When Mother asked her the reason, she replied, "I am afraid to eat faster. When I finish this piece, soon I will be hungry again." I couldn't contain my tears. Ridden with guilt, I lashed out my door and handed over some fruits and food packets to the workers in my apartment. Couple of days passed, and that guilt lessened. Then I came across this passage from Isaiah 58 and Mathew 25, overlaid with God's anger to our boastful ideas of fasting and prayer. It makes us pause and ponder on the reasons of what the Bible calls justice.

Let us for a moment consider this-how far did God of the Bible go to identify with the poor? He was the son of a carpenter basically with no social standing and belonging to the poorest of the poor. He was homeless and died oppressed. Lynched, beaten, unrepresented, the God of the Bible chose to become a victim of an unjust system of this world. That's how far!

We often comment on the injustices of this world. If there is a God, how can He allow these things to happen? Why doesn't He do something about it? Well, He did. He died on the Cross-the very epitome of injustice. And so, He alone understands our suffering.

Guilt can only produce religious acts as long as it lasts. Verse 6 literally means that if our children have better resources than the world around them, then we are a part of that unjust system. It is not calling me to just loosen the yolk to a certain extent, as much as possible; it calls me to break it. It is my responsibility as a christian to share what I have with all those who are deprived. I may fast and pray for hours, worship and do all that makes me feel righteous, yet God says, in Matthew 25:40 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' He asked us to serve the poor if we love Him.

Biblical justice is not the same as social justice. It points us to interdependence. Our resources are not just ours, it must be shared with everyone in need. Plunge and donate everything you have if you really love Him as your Lord. This new year, take the lens of biblical justice and look at what was paid for you as a ransom. He shed the last drop His precious blood to reunite us to the fabric of the heavenly realms. That's what it calls for. Go down to those places where the yolk is heavy and the need is surmounting. Give everything you have, your time, your money, our resources, your physical efforts, everything and then as Verse 14 says,

'then you will find your joy in the Lord,

and I will cause you to ride in triumph on the heights of the land

and to feast on the inheritance of your father Jacob."

May we learn to love Him with all our heart, soul, and mind as the days unfold. God bless you all!



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- 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



Justin's Home



www.sathyam.org

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CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

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

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.

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



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

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



SATHYA NIKETHAN

Reg.No. 215/08/2017-20

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