



# TRUTH alive

DIGEST ON CHRISTENDOM

**VOLUME 12 ISSUE 9 SEPTEMBER 2020 Rs. 100/-**

**"The Decline of the Assemblies"**

Dr. Alexander kurian

**Lead by Example :A challenge to today's Christian youth**

Pastor Matt Costella

**Lack Of Unity - The Greatest problem Facing the Church:**

Pat Robertson



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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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“And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Finally, brethren whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy - meditate on these things.”

Philippians 4:7-8

## EDITORIAL



Dear Readers,

**Greetings to you in the most precious name of our loving Saviour Jesus Christ!**

Political confusions, racial wars, unrests, natural calamities, terrorist attacks, bombings and shootings are all part of the news that we hear in our daily lives. Every day we turn on the news only to find out more negative events happening in this world today. What we considered as safe havens are no longer safe.

Amidst all the chaos and confusion, I have some good news for you - Our God is Jehovah Shalom! He is the God of peace and His peace reigns in you. During the times of trouble, **Psalms 46:1 Says “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble”.**

We can be a positive ray of hope in this world by shining the light of Jesus in this dark and broken world. A kind and helpful deed, a word of hope or a touch of comfort and love may be the catalyst that shows Jesus to the broken hearted and weary.

During these times we have to constantly feed our minds with good things. Meditate on God's word and declare it.

**I would like to pray a prayer of Blessing over all of you:**

**“The Lord bless you and keep you: and may His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; May the Lord lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace.” God bless you!**

**Dr. C.V. Vadavana**  
Founder & Chairman  
Sathyam Service Trust

# To love might be too much to ask.

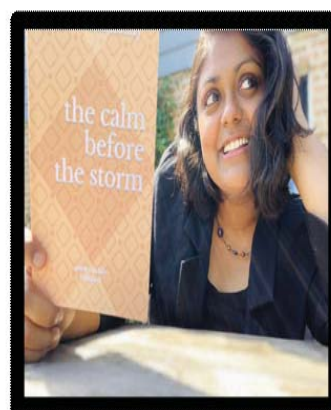
There is something to be said about the way the human race has turned the word love into one spoken with no intention of action behind it. We crave for the feeling as a dehydrated man in a desert longs to see a glimpse of blue shimmer in the beyond.

The modern child grows into a space of dwelling which offers more comparison and anxiety than anticipated. The face of a parent when the child walks into the house after a long day of school, their eyes wide open in hopes that the child achieved all that the parents wished for. The child, on the other hand, walking with their head down, the test score was lower than their parents expectations. Due to the fear in their hearts the child walks into their room in agony, for they know the outcome.

It became such a routine, the child expects a long face from their mother and a sigh of disappointment from their father. Not once did any of them dare to ask how the child was feeling, how was his/her mental state. They only cared for the marks on school exams, it felt as though the numbers were given higher priority

It amazes me to know the degree of pity and weight of disapproval that is placed on the head of a child. They become shackled by it from the millisecond they are born. The parents walk with rituals and chants before the child, praying and hoping that it is a boy. For society says a boy is better, so society's viewpoint

becomes the vantage point that parents look to. The doctor comes and says "It is a girl!" With exclamation the nurse speaks forth with joy, joy that in comparison to those who can not have kids, this couple was able to. The parents on the other hand hang their heads low.



Angela Koshy

Loving a child with your whole heart is vital, for with the love they receive they pour out unto others. For if you do not pour into them, their cup will be barren. The lack of knowledge on how to raise a child and how to invest into them, will become the death of their soul. Yes they will be alive physically but their mental state of mind will malfunction with no hope of a cure.

May the Word of God and the love of God be a point of reference when addressing your child. The saying "What would Jesus Do?" should be a looping tape in the mind of a parent. How we love is the mirror of our relationship with the Lord. If our relationship with the Lord suffers so also will our relationship with others. To all the parents I address especially, may your high expectations not become the ledge which your child jumps off of

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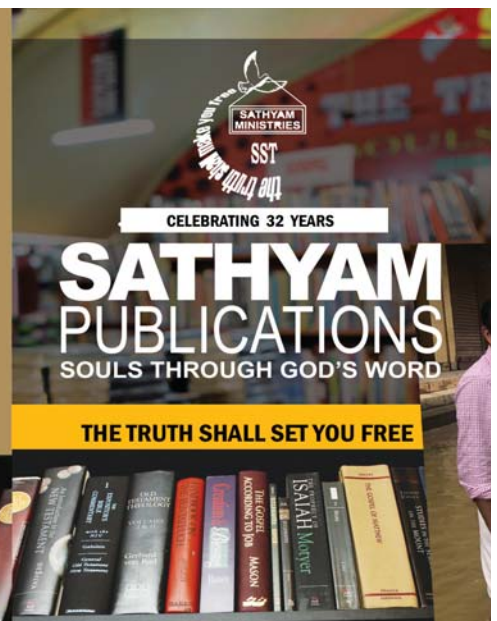
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# BE PREPARED

Joni Eareckson Tada



***“In that day they will say, ‘Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.’”  
Isaiah 25:9***

When I was little, the neighbor kids down the street were my idols. I remember the time their parents asked my folks if I could go to the community pool with them. We piled into their station wagon, amid inner tubes, beach towels, bag lunches, and snorkeling stuff. This was going to be great!

But when we arrived at the pool, my friends headed straight for the deep end. I ran on their heels but skidded to a stop at the diving board. I had never been in the deep end. I had never dived off a board before. I pranced around the edge of the pool, pretending to be a part of things, when I

Being prepared is more than a Boy Scout motto. Most Christians hope to go to heaven one day, right? Maybe we even feel excited about the idea: streets of gold, no more worries, jumping from one planet to the other. But think about it more deeply.

Its inhabitants are holy. To be happy in heaven, we must be prepared for it, with our hearts in tune to holiness. Look at today's verse again. In that day will you say, “This is the LORD, we trusted in him”? Are you prepared to “rejoice and be glad in

Do you honestly think you would be thrilled to meet Jesus after clinging to the very sins for which he died? Could you join the cry of Isaiah 25:9? Think Scripture reading, hymn singing, and praying are dull? You're in for a shock when you enter

*Father God, I have far to go before I'm prepared for the blessings that await me. Show me the next step I need to take to move closer to being holy like you.*

# THE DECLINE OF THE ASSEMBLIES

DR. ALEXANDER KURIAN

(Continue...)

## *Is the Revival Movement in Need of a Revival?*

### **The Danger of “Any Man” Ministry**

To my surprise, in recent years, I personally came across many young people in the assemblies who regularly go to the weekday services or Sunday evening service in other conservative evangelical churches to hear sound expository preaching by gifted men of God. It is a clear evidence that many are not spiritually fed by the Word in our assemblies. Unknowingly, we made the doctrine of the Priesthood of all Believers into the “Preacherhood of all Believers.” This has betrayed the quality of the ministry of the Word in many assemblies. We have weakened our pulpit with unscriptural Brethren practices. This is a serious problem. Since assemblies do not have a one-man preacher or pastor, it became a breeding ground for all men to be preachers and teachers. It is custom that several men, whether gifted for public ministry or not, have to be accommodated on the pulpit. **Ministry of the Word is usually in the hands of ungifted men** in many assemblies who waste people's time with unprofitable ministry. This is a false, unscriptural system, perpetuated for years in many assemblies, and our young people and many sensible believers are fed up with this. It is deeply ingrained into our functioning and elders are helpless to make changes. If we change this it becomes “unbrethren” (some people even consider this as one of our distinctives)!

Not only that most of the men in the assembly have to be accommodated on the pulpit, many visitors also have to be given a chance. **“One-man ministry” is replaced by “any-man” ministry.** Accommodating everyone and giving opportunity to all is the practice promoted by elders in most assemblies. Elders forget the fact that they are called to “shepherd” the people of God and feeding the assembly is their primary responsibility. But they outsource it to others including many visitors who may not be gifted to minister the Word, and who may not be sensitive to the spiritual needs of the assembly. The priority of pastoral leaders in the assembly is in the area of prayer and the ministry of the Word (Acts 6: 4, 2). When they neglect it, the assembly will starve spiritually.

**“Any-man” ministry is true of majority of Brethren assemblies in the world.** Even if the danger of this practice is pointed out time and again, usually **nothing is changed.** In the case of Bible studies also, it is the same story. In many assemblies, the studies are not systematic, consecutive, and profitable. It is all piecemeal, “hit and run” type of ministries. Then only we can accommodate and please everyone. The elders are not willing to take a stand in this vital area of ministry probably because of many pressures, or they have no vision or understanding about the primacy of systematic teaching. The primary goal in all this is to give “opportunity” to others without discernment about their spiritual giftedness. **Thus, the God-ordained rule of the edification of the gathered body of Christ is ignored.** In many assemblies, those who plan and schedule the ministry of the Word and Bible studies also do not know how to wisely plan it as they themselves lack pastoral, theological and biblical understanding or training so as to organize these ministries in the proper way. They seldom enlist help from others for fear of changes that can happen in the traditional methodology.

The Brethren were known for their expository preaching and teaching of the Word. Assemblies traditionally had been best for consecutive, systematic, expository Bible teaching. People used to flock to our assemblies to hear the Word preached by gifted men. **Today, many leave our assemblies and go to other evangelical churches to hear solid teaching and expository messages.** We see this happening everyday before our own eyes. Who is responsible for this? Many evangelical churches around us are doing a commendable service in the area of Word ministry. The gatherings of the Brethren in early days were blessed by numerous gifted men in the Word. So when they took turns in the pulpit and several men participated in that exercise regularly, the standard of the ministry and its profitability were not compromised. Many of them were trained scholars, teachers, and gifted expositors. But that situation has changed in the Assemblies long time ago. So we have to be more discerning, careful and vigilant in assigning preaching/ teaching responsibilities. Oh! If we were like the sons of Issachar, “men who



under stood the times, with knowledge of what Israel should do" (1 Chro. 12:32).

Most assemblies also do not train and equip the young people who have potential leadership abilities and who have demonstrated spiritual leaders of the assembly, if the Lord appoints them to such. Those who also have demonstrated gifts of preaching and teaching also will benefit from some basic training within the assembly in expository preaching and homiletics. Usually no concern, interest or vision is seen in these vital areas of equipping and mentoring ministries. Have we outsourced all our responsibilities to Bible colleges and seminaries? **The neglect of mentoring, training and equipping ministries have also weakened us.**

Unedifying ministry is a total disservice to the people of God. This is one of the serious problems that have adversely affected the assemblies. The standard of the Word ministry has to match with the education and also the pastoral and practical needs of the congregation. There is a need to "fence" our pulpit that it should not be wide open to all. There is nothing scripturally wrong for gifted men to take a series of messages consecutively. We try to give the impression that crowding the pulpit with too many preachers is scriptural and it is the New Testament pattern. How did we get this idea? We are sadly mistaken. The proclamation and teaching of the Word should not be in the hands of "one man," "any man" and "every man." **It should be in the hands of gifted and godly men, called and equipped by the Holy Spirit, who can rightly divide the Word.** There is no Scriptural reason or argument against it. It is ironic that we who claim utmost commitment to the Word, do a great dishonor to the Word in the practice of our Word ministry. We know that many believers, especially many in the young generation, have left our assemblies because of the unprofitable ministry from the pulpit week after week. Shocking truth! But we are reluctant to admit it. Will we ever make the necessary changes? It is already too late.

### Lack of Pastoral Care

Lack of positive leadership and pastoral care is another important reason, I believe, as to why people are leaving the assemblies. The word "pastor" has always been an anathema in the assembly circles. **Biblical eldership is plural and pastoral. The pastoral aspect of eldership (Acts 20:28; 1 Pet.5:2) is not emphasized in our teaching.** Most of our books and commentaries also are silent about it. Whenever we refer to the word "Pastor", our single aim has been to prove that the denominational pastoral system is wrong. We always portray the word

in a negative way. I have never heard in my life a positive biblical teaching on the aspect of pastoral leadership in the assembly circles. Thank God, that situation is slowly changing, at least with some concerned Bible teachers. **There is no "pastor" over a church, but there are "pastors" (shepherds) in a church.** Our whole emphasis has been on plurality of leadership and unknowingly, we have neglected the pastoral aspect of church leadership. This may be an over-reaction to the denominational system of one-man leadership/pastor ruling the assembly. Let us be careful not to throw the baby out with the bath water.

We need more spiritual leaders in our assemblies with caring and shepherding hearts, who are sensitive to the struggles and problems of believers. They also must be equipped and trained to effectively minister to the varied challenges people face in a sin-trodden society. Weak and insensitive leadership and non-functional elders will not be able to minister to the needs of God's people. We cannot let the bleeding and wounded sheep suffer for too long, lest they go after other shepherds. "Where is the flock that was given you, your beautiful sheep" (Jeremiah 13:20)? **Members of Brethren assemblies seem to complain more often than those in other churches about the lack of appropriate pastoral care in times of crisis.** Very unpleasant truth, but the fact remains.

Another major issue facing the assemblies is the **lack of full-time elders.** We have never encouraged this idea. I have even heard some of our teachers speaking against this idea. This is never a prayer item in the assembly prayer meetings. We do not even recognize the need for it! It is true that many of our elders along with their secular employment try to do their best with great sacrifice on their part. But we have to be more practical and realistic. In the fast-paced busy world in which we live, along with the various challenges facing us every day both at work and at home, there are lot of factors that can make things harder. An elder's responsibilities at work, home, and church create a real time crunch. Hence, many of them are not able to do their pastoral work as of high priority, though they may have a heart to do it. This is a built-in weakness which we have ignored. This is an undeniable fact and no theology can eliminate it. This practical problem has nothing to do with the elder's sincerity, commitment or honesty; it is simply the reality of life. I believe it is high time for assemblies to think more seriously, encouraging some of our elders to be full-time shepherds for the



lock of God. I wish if we could make this a matter of urgent concern and prayer and seek the Lord's will in this matter. We have to have practical and remedial measures to bridge the gap in pastoral ministries in the assemblies. Implementing the principles in 1 Tim.5:17-18 can be of much help to us in this crisis.

**In assemblies where there is more responsible pastoral care, we see growth and blessing.** Meaningful pastoral care is the strength of many evangelical churches. Pentecostal and Charismatic churches all over the world attract more people to their fold, not through their doctrine, but by gracious and caring pastoral ministry. It is a general complaint or accusation against us that assemblies are not ideal places for hurting people and people who go through various problems of life. Many people who go through trying situations of life

usually leave the assemblies knowing that they will not “survive” there as there is no ministry towards them (especially those who re in the midst of marriage/ family crisis). Even the young generation among the Brethren constantly accuse us as non-compassionate, judgmental, ungracious, and ministering only to “perfect” people, and holding on to the “**truth**” without “**grace.**” Have we been too harsh and ungracious in applying the Scripture, clinging on to the letter of the law than the spirit of it? I believe, all these problems have something to do with the lack of caring, and trained pastoral leadership. Many assemblies are led by people who may be faithful, but lack leadership skills. We all know that this is true though many do not want to admit it.

*(Continue.....)*



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# ALIKE

Rishi Ekanayake



"You" and "Me":

Two different flowers of the same kind;

Unique in fragrance, shape and colour  
The very fact sets the ground for our Pride.

Under the rays of the same sun, we bloom,  
With the setting of the same sun, we wither,

Hour by hour, minute by minute  
Second by second till the evening twilight  
Our pinkish beauty gets simply faded  
While all our rights get brutally ceased.

We cherish only for few hours in life,  
Gifting others a pleasant sight,  
We both meet our dreadful destiny  
In the Day's heartless run, tight.

By the twilight if we still remain un-plucked,  
We both die some simple natural death,  
Leaving our glamour, the beauty and the bees  
Mostly, we leave no traces, the least!

"My Dear Friend,  
When we are so similarly different,  
While our lives are differently much alike,  
During this trivial temporal season,  
Why the Prejudice and the Pride?"





**Pastor Matt Costella**

# Lead by Example :

## A Challenge to Today's Christian Youth

**M**any people tend to think of today's youth as the leaders of tomorrow. But Scripture never places us in such a category. It never instructs us to wait until we are more mature or knowledgeable or skilled before we begin to take God's Word seriously and consider what plans and purposes the Lord has for our lives. According to God's Word, we are to be leaders even today who earnestly desire to honor and serve our Lord in all our thoughts and actions. Paul told Timothy, a younger man in the faith, "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity" (1 Tim. 4:12). God specifically commands us, as young people, to be leaders—to lead by example. We are to understand God's instructions to us and let the world watch us grow in our spiritual walk with the Lord.

As a young person myself, I am burdened for the church in the days ahead, and I am burdened for today's youth who must not only strive to live exemplary lives right now (that is, a life that is an example for others to follow), but who will one day attempt to serve as faithful leaders within the body of Christ, the church. I am burdened because it is not getting any easier to live in this world. I am burdened because young Christians today often fail to understand that God desires to have a close, intimate relationship with them right now, a relationship that only comes about when we obey the Scriptures. Sadly, many young people often feel as though God will only use them or speak to them through His Word when they grow older. Yet this is certainly not true!

I know that many adults do not always provide the right examples for us to follow.

are downright hypocritical. Others do not even seem to care what God's Word has to say at all. Others may truly desire to follow Christ but find themselves more interested in what some individual has to say or what some program has to offer rather than what God's Word teaches. Today, as many older believers tend to disregard the teaching of God's Word in order to be accepted by others, we who are younger are witnessing this tragic compromise, this disregard for Biblical truth.

Often, many of our peers (or maybe we ourselves) are following in the footsteps of our errant elders and copying their unscriptural attitudes and philosophies of ministry. Maybe we feel as though we should worship and unite with others even though they do not agree with us concerning what the Bible teaches. Maybe we feel as though we should join a "cooler," more "alive" church. Maybe we feel that we should live like the world, act like the world, talk like the world and dress like the world in order to witness to the unsaved. Maybe we feel as if our outward actions do not really matter to God as long as we are sincere and our motives are pure.

Yet despite the mixed signals and poor examples often set by those around us, young and old alike, God wants us to honor Him, obey Him and lead by example. The Word of God is not silent concerning the conduct of young people and their role in the church and in society. I believe that as young people today, we must seriously consider what God's Word has to say to us. Are we measuring up to what God wants us to be? Are we just following the crowd, or do we stand out as those who desire to be faithful and holy despite the hypocrisy and compromise

## A Holistic Approach to Life



Thomas Kulanjiyil, PhD

A holistic approach to life encompasses biological, psychological, sociological, cultural, and spiritual components that influence and shape human behavior, health, and well-being.

Various biological processes in the human body, regulated by the nervous system, affect our thoughts and emotions. Genetics and heredity impact our physical, mental, and psychological health. Hormones significantly influence our behaviors.

There are conscious and unconscious psychological drives and motifs that shape human conduct. Prominent psychological theorists like Maslow, Freud, Rogers, and Erikson help us understand human behavior more systematically and thoroughly. Personality psychologists shed lights to the unique personality traits of people and their behaviors. A basic understanding of these psychological dimensions of the human person helps us not only gain self-understanding but also to get insights into the problems and needs of others.

Human behavior is heavily shaped by societal norms and expectations, and they influence how people relate and react to one another, and how they express their thoughts and feelings. For example, in the American society, children are trained to be more assertive, but in the Asian society, children are taught to be less pushy and assertive, and to be more submissive to authority.

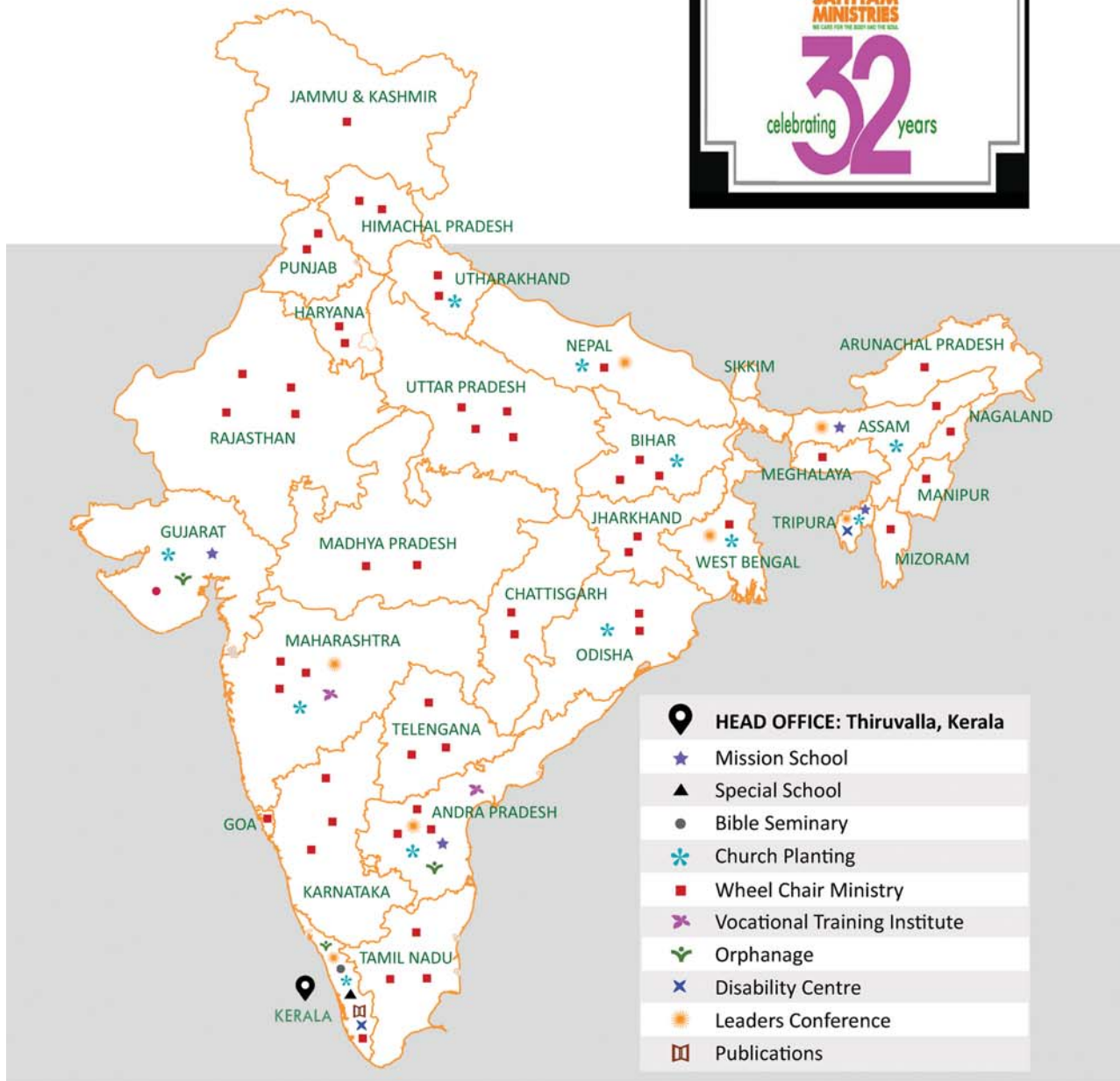
Psychological problems are often culture-specific, and they are maintained in a cultural context, and therefore, understanding people in their cultural context, is essential to interpersonal communication, especially in a multicultural context.

The spiritual dimension, often described as the “inner psyche”, is that facet of a human being that decides between what is right and what is wrong, and what is good and what is evil. It is also that component which seeks out for spiritual communion with God. Spirituality helps a person to comprehend the true purpose and meaning for life. Apart from this spiritual element, human beings will be no different from other beasts.

Thus, a holistic approach treats man as a unity, functioning biologically, psychologically, socially, and spiritually. It acknowledges that man is endowed with intellect, will, and ability for discernment to take personal responsibility for change and transformation. Notwithstanding these God-given capacities, man also recognizes his limitations, and thus calls out for divine assistance in life, as best expressed by St. Augustine in one of his prayers:

O God, from whom to be turned is to fall,  
to whom to be turned is to rise,  
and with whom to stand is to abide forever;  
grant us in all our duties your help,  
in all our perplexities your guidance,  
in all our dangers your protection,  
and in all our sorrows your peace,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.





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# How Can I Glorify God When I Have No Work?

Laura Baxter



**“H**ow can I glorify God?” This should be the top goal, the chief purpose, of the life of a believer. Whether we eat, drink, work, or play, we are called to do everything to the glory of God (1Cor.10:31).

In a world of electronic devices, it is easy to dodge boredom and numb ourselves to the passage of time. But as Christians, we don't want to become comfortable with idleness (1 Thess.5:14). We want to make sure that our lives are productive and fruitful. We are pushing back against the sin of laziness, and this is a sign of the Holy Spirit working in our life.

At the same time, it seems we are facing some spiritual discouragement. We are starting to feel useless, like there is “no work to do.” I think about the times I've been prevented from working—the weeks on bed rest while pregnant, the years chasing business that didn't materialize. I want you to take heart, because God has you right where he wants you. He is

**Here are five thoughts for this strange time.**

## ***1. Trust God has work for you to do, even when you're unemployed.***

The fifth commandment instructs us to work (Ex.20:9), and God promises to enable us to obey him. Remember that many fruitful endeavors do not involve a paycheck. Look for needs in your family, your church community, your neighborhood. If you don't know what they are, make a few phone calls or write a few emails. Check out the programs and charities supported by your church. Reach out to your neighborhood school, nursing home, or community center. These organizations may look different during COVID, but they can likely point you to tangible needs.

## ***2. Engage the spiritual disciplines—prayer, reading God's Word, talking with other believers (a good use for those electronic devices).***

Block out an hour or more for extended prayer. Pick a meaty passage of Scripture for meditation and memorization. Ask for recommendations on a Bible study, and get a couple friends to join you. By leaning into the ordinary means of grace, you are tuning your spiritual ears. This will help you discern God's voice on how to spend your time.

## ***3. Take time to dream.***

Perhaps, in the frantic pace of pre-COVID life, you set aside some goals for personal enrichment. Maybe you want to start an exercise program, or pick up a hobby, or complete a home-improvement project. Maybe you have wanted—or needed—to read a certain book, but kept getting distracted. Now is a good time to take steps toward these goals. If your motivation needs a jumpstart, talk to a friend or two.

## ***4. Resume self-supporting work as it becomes available.***

From your letter, it appears God has blessed you through the unemployment safety net provided by government, so that you are not concerned about money at this time. I want to encourage you not to let these payments stop you from looking for paid work. The Bible teaches that financial pressure can be good for us, because it pushes us away from laziness and toward work (Prov.16:26; 2 Thess.3:10). Since you do not have this financial pressure, you may need extra vigilance not to become needlessly dependent on others.



## 5. *Rest in God's love for you.*

Remember your value does not come from work, or from your outward productivity. True fruitfulness comes from abiding in Christ, experiencing his grace, and allowing it to flow through us. He is the vine; we are the branches (John 15:4). When things are slow, it's tempting to manufacture activity to fill the void. A better alternative? Wait on the Lord (Ps. 130:5-6).

Take your restlessness and feelings of emptiness to him.

When I was on bedrest, God was preparing me for the busy job of motherhood. And that stall in my professional career—painful as it was—forced me to my knees in prayer. Many years later, I can look back and wonder at how God answers on his own timeline. I trust he will do the same in your life.

# The Stories Behind Our Hymns

## ● 'Amazing Grace', John Newton (1779)

Most of us have heard the familiar words, “**Amazing grace**, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me.” The author of the hymn was, by his own admission, a “wretch.” He was a slave trader, a blasphemer, a rebel, an immoral man, a torturer, and as far from grace as anyone could ever be. As a boy, John was captivated by the adventure and risk of life on the high seas. When he was eleven, young John Newton launched into that exciting life of voyaging, sailing, and living his dream. But the dream turned out to be a nightmare. Later in life he wrote, “I sinned with a high hand, and I made it my study to tempt and seduce others.” Newton lived a hard life with hard consequences. God got his attention though. In 1748, Newton's slave ship was nearly wrecked by an intense storm. In the tempest, surrounded by crashing waves, cutting winds, creaking timbers, and the cries of onboard slaves, John fell to his knees and pled for mercy, and for grace. God's grace, which reaches anyone, anywhere, saved a wretch like John Newton. Newton wrote the song years later while serving as a pastor in Olney, England. During America's Second Great Awakening, the song was paired with its familiar tune and was widely used in camp meetings and revival services.

Today, its lyrics still inspire, encourage, and instruct people about the radical reality of God's amazing grace.

## ● 'Great Is Thy Faithfulness' Thomas Chisholm (1923)

It's inspiring to hear about hymns that were written in extraordinary circumstances — thunderstorms, shipwrecks, or life-shaking events. Still, not every great hymn was written in the throes of danger or the heights of exultation. In fact, one of the greatest, “**Great Is Thy Faithfulness**,” was written by an ordinary man in an ordinary situation in the ordinary ups and downs of life. Thomas Chisholm was a pastor for one year, but for most of his life, he worked as an insurance agent. He was born in humble means in Kentucky, struggled with health problems, and worked hard to make ends meet the rest of his life. He wrote, “My income has not been large at any time due to impaired health in the earlier years which has followed me on until now. Although I must not fail to record here the unfailing faithfulness of a covenant-keeping God and that He has given me many wonderful displays of His providing care, for which I am filled with astonishing gratefulness.” This hymn for the ordinary Christian is about an extraordinary God. Rich or poor, we all can say, “All I have needed Thy hand hath provided.”

*(To be continued...)*

# Spiritual Hygiene

Wondering why spiritual hygiene? Well, amidst of Coronavirus pandemic, we are all advised to follow good personal hygiene, isolation, and if necessary social distancing. Due to strict curfew by Government, most of us have retired back to home chores, and multitasking. Sadly, our economy, education, religious institutions, families are adversely affected by this pandemic. So being one among the lot, I took sometime out to seek God to know where He is in all of these.



LIZ J

After a while pressing in with song of praises, adoration and declaration, I felt a strange voidness and unaffected atmosphere. Waited for some more time and nothing changed. I began to wonder if my worship and declaration became inefficacious. While inwardly processing, more questions popped out such as-have I become dull to the voice of God? Why am I not able to hear Him clearly as before? Why my human made plans been faltered? Am I doing something wrong?

Whoaaa! A lot of questions isn't it? Well, I felt the need to allow God to show what's in my heart. He reminded that the whole world has lost its momentum. And people are hiding in fear, and trembling including the ones that believe in God. But we are called to walk in the opposite spirit, right? Yes, and I realised my heart is cringing with fear and voidness on hearing the updates of death toll and positive cases for Coronavirus. Unknowingly I have allowed my heart to be in the place of fear and agony.

The word of God reminds us that upon hearing and hearing the word of God, faith arises (2Cor 5:17). Also "He has not given us the spirit of fear but of power, of love, and of a sound mind" (2Tim 1:7). What do we or to whom we often listen to? Do we have a choice?

God is concerned about our spiritual Hygiene as well. It means to have our mind and heart transformed into His like mindedness. If we don't guard our hearts from the lies of the enemy, then we may give into the fear of death and lifelessness. Interestingly, We have become oblivion to the truth in the word of God and have allowed the world to feed our inner system with a lot of fear. It doesn't mean we should not take any precautions. We must follow thoroughly every instructions given by the government and medical teams. Also at the same time, we need to strengthen our hearts and minds with the promises of God. Let me remind you, light and darkness cannot move hand in hand. So, we, as the body of Christ, must rise up for such a time as this to take our positions to make powerful declaration of God's authority, victory and His faithfulness over nations. We should also thank God for protection, and pray for all the people who are in frontline working hard to control the pandemic.

I encourage each of you to partner with God to fight this chaos in the spirit realm, not for yourself alone but also for your neighbours as well around the world. Lets tune to the heartbeat of God bless

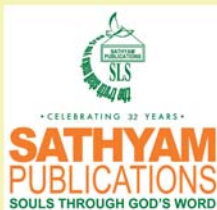
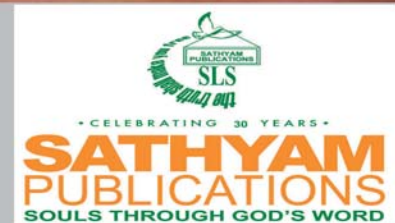
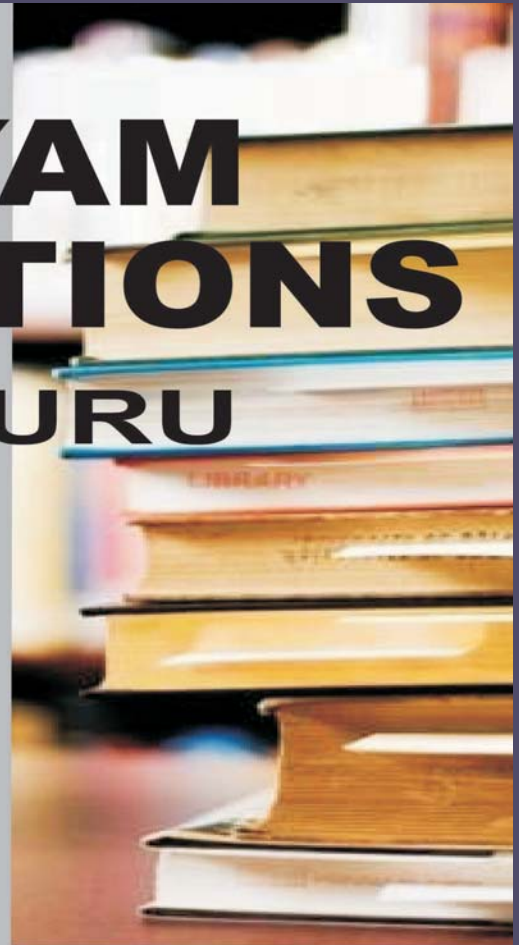


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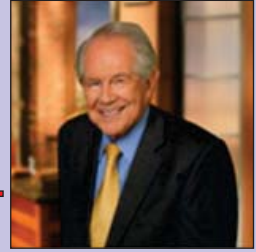
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# Lack Of Unity - The Greatest Problem Facing the Church:



Pat Robertson

**F**rom my point of view, the greatest problem facing the church is lack of unity. When Jesus Christ was getting ready to leave this earth, He prayed for His disciples and asked especially that they would be united (see John 17:20-21). He said that whenever His followers acted in unity, the world would know that the Father had sent Him (see John 17:23). However, it is extremely difficult in this world to achieve the kind of unity, love, and concern for one another that Jesus Christ shared with His disciples.



I am not advocating unity at the expense of purity or at the expense of doctrinal truth. We cannot throw out the Bible in order to have unity. We cannot embrace any strange doctrine just to have superficial unity. But we must have unity where those who truly love Jesus Christ will love each other and try to work together. Even though they may differ over techniques and other superficial things, Christians must work together and emphasize areas of agreement. When this happens, the church will become a supernaturally powerful force. According to the book of Genesis, upon the occasion of the building of the tower of Babel, God saw that the people had one

language and were of one accord. Because of this, He said that nothing they wanted to do would have been impossible for them (see Genesis 11:6). If the church could achieve unity, it could change the political and social structure of society with no trouble at all. The world would be a beautiful place to live in if the church would get together. Regrettably, we do not. We have a divisive party spirit...we have jealousy...we fight...we are suspicious of one another. I am not talking about those who do not really believe in God. I am talking about the ones who are believers, who have been born again. If people will truly follow after the Spirit of God, they can operate in unity, because the Spirit of God will give them unity.

Unity begins to break down when man's selfishness enters the picture. For unity we have to have mutual respect and a mutual willingness to give and to surrender, not to the other person so much, but to Jesus. We can truly have unity when we all want God's will to be done.

## Song

# The Way

Micah.S.George

You take me to those ways  
Where I don't want to go  
You show me the way  
When I asked you that time  
You showed me the way  
That I don't want to go (2)  
My Lord

I had faith in you my God  
You sent me that light those answers  
I asked (2)  
God you were being my troubles  
And you saw me when I cried  
You take me up with your hand (2)  
My lord

The light you gave me its so beautiful  
The way you want it look so fun  
Now I want to go on that way  
God you are the best always  
And forever (2)  
My Lord

# 10 Things The Bible Tells Us About Angels

**M**any of us see angels more as decoration than the reality. But **Dr. Roger Barrier**, retired as senior teaching pastor from Casas Church in Tucson, Arizona explains what the Bible tells us about angels.

We seem to know very little about the existence and ministry of Angels. To most of us, angels are more decoration than the reality. Angels appear on tombstones, the walls of nurseries, jewelry, Renaissance art, ordination certificates, Christmas cards, and Valentines.

I would imagine that very few of us will have a dramatic encounter with an angelic spirit. But if we do, it will be a marker point in our lives that we will never forget. The word, "angel," means "messenger." For example, Hebrews chapter two tells us that the Angels were the messengers who delivered the Ten Commandments to Moses.

## Here is the 10 things The Bible has to tells us about Angels;

1. God created the angels before He created anything else in the universe.

The angels watched God work and shouted for joy at the results of the creation (Job 38:4-7).

2. All of the angels were created simultaneously. They are unable to procreate. (Matthew 22:28). The number of angels has always been constant.

3. The number of angels is incomprehensible. Revelation 5:11 records the number of Angels: "Ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands and thousands."

4. Angels are powerful.

Only one angel was needed to wipe out 185,000 Assyrians in a single night (2 Kings 19).

5. Angels were created to praise and worship God around His throne.

Revelation 5:11-12: "In a loud voice they sang, "Worthy is the Lamb, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"

6. Every church is assigned an angel to watch over it and to help protect it.

Revelation 1:20: "The mystery of the seven stars... the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches."

7. Angels will separate the wheat from the weeds at the final judgment (the saved from the lost).

Matthew 13:38-42: "The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels."

8. Angels minister to those who believe in Christ.

Jacob's dream of a ladder, by which angels ascended and descended between heaven and earth, is a beautiful picture of their incessant activity for us (Genesis 28:12).

9. Angels protect believers from danger as in the case of watching over the three Hebrews in the furnace (**Daniel chapter 3**), or by watching over Daniel in the lions' den (**Daniel chapter 6**).

Once when Brianna, our oldest daughter, was just learning crawl, Julie heard me yell from the back bathroom. "Julie, come quickly!" At the same time I heard Julie call from the back bathroom, "Roger, come quickly." We both ran quickly to discover Brianna about to tumble headlong onto the tile of our three-foot-deep sunken tub. We grabbed her just in time. Julie said, "I'm sure glad you called me to get back here quickly."



September 2020

"I didn't call you," I said. "You called me." "I didn't call you," she said. We had an angelic visitation from Brie's guardian angel! Experiences like these make Psalm 34:7 come alive: "Angels of the Lord encamp around those who fear God and deliver them."

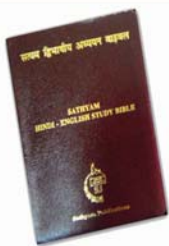
9. Not all angels are good.

Galatians 1:8-11: "But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned... I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ."

10. Have you ever wondered about guardian angels?

Matthew 18:10: "See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven."

I pray often for my guarding angel. I pray for him/her (it?) to be "strong" on my behalf in the spiritual battles that I fight. When I am praying for someone about to undergo surgery, I never fail to pray for their guardian angel, assigned to them at birth, to help guide the hand of the surgeon for a successful surgery. I want him/her (it?) and me to be good friends. I am looking forward to seeing him/her(it?) in heaven.



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## Blockbuster Survey: Christianity Is Growing as Iranians Lose Faith in Islam

For years, mission groups have been talking about the rapid growth of Christianity in Iran and now a survey of Iranian citizens is backing up those claims.

Based in the Netherlands, the non-profit Group for Analyzing and Measuring Attitudes in Iran (GAMAAN) questioned 50,000 Iranians, 90 percent of whom live in the country. The results showed that 1.5 percent of those surveyed identified themselves as Christian. Those numbers suggest there are probably hundreds of thousands of Christians in the Islamic Republic and could quickly be approaching one million. Mike Ansari of Mohabat TV, a ministry that broadcasts the Gospel into Iran, told *CBN News* the survey is significant because it lends credence to what mission groups have been saying for years.

"Iranians are turning their back to their faith, to their institutional faith, and receiving Christianity as their new faith," Ansari said on *CBN's Christian World News* program. "One-point-five percent becoming Christian may not seem a big number, but for a country that is closed and persecuted towards Christianity that number is a huge indication of the Gospel growth." Until now, the accepted number had been less than one percent of the population, but anecdotal reports suggested waves of people were turning to Christ in recent years. Those numbers are hard to verify, however, since Iran is officially a Muslim nation and the church is persecuted.



Satellite TV and other ministries are sending a message of love that appeals to the population and it's spreading organically from person to person, resulting in a huge explosion of the underground house church movement. "The majority of the movement is happening underground and it's growing very, very fast," Ansari said.

However, rapid growth also presents a risk to the church because of a lack of biblical teaching and discipleship. Many Muslim background believers come to Christ through the radio or TV and that isn't the best way to grow in faith. "The church could be very vast, but it could be extremely shallow...theologically they're not solid. There's no access to the Bible, to Scripture as you and I have access to. There's no access to church," he said.

"The church in Iran is quite scattered, it's very fragile and it really does need to come out of isolation. That's one of the major challenges that this young church in Iran is facing.

The survey also revealed that Iranians are turning from Islam. While the government claims 95 percent of the population is Shiite Muslim, only 32 percent of those surveyed identified themselves as such. And 47 percent said they used to be religious, but are no longer religious at all. "Iranians feel Islam is bankrupt, they have turned their backs to their faith, to their institutional faith, they're looking for answers elsewhere," Ansari said.

Those feelings extend to the government itself. According to a 2019 survey by GAMAAN, 79 percent of the population said they would vote against the Islamic Republic.

## PRAY FOR INDIA

### 'Suffering for the sake of the Gospel': Hindu radicals in India brutally beat pastor for 2 hours

A pastor in India shared how his faith sustained him as Hindu extremists beat him almost to the point of death because of his evangelistic efforts. International Christian Concern reports that on Aug. 21, Pastor Prasanna Kumar, 32, was attacked and brutally beaten by a mob of radical Hindu nationalists as he returned home from a prayer meeting in Bikampur village, located in the Bareilly district of Uttar Pradesh. The radicals accused the pastor of forcefully converting Hindus to Christianity.

"The attack seemed well planned," Pastor Kumar told ICC. "I thought they were going to kill me." According to the pastor, a mob

him and pulled him from his motorbike before beating him with wooden clubs. "They yelled at me and accused me of converting people to the Christian faith," Kumar told ICC. "They said that I give money to people to make them convert to Christianity." "I tried to talk to them, but they would not allow me to say anything," Kumar continued. "I was bleeding from my head and was kicked around like a football." The attack lasted for two hours, leading the pastor to believe he was going to die.

"God gave me the grace to accept even death," Kumar told ICC. "Scriptures were running through my mind as I was being




However, when I thought about my 4-year-old daughter and my wife, I was shattered, and it was excruciating."When the radicals finally stopped beating Kumar, they told him they would kill him if they saw him in the village again.

Kumar reported the incident to the authorities; however, local police refused to file his complaint, accusing him of attempting to register a false report. It wasn't until three days later, when church leader from outside Bareilly district called the police station and advocated

on Kumar's behalf, that the complaint was accepted. Still, police haven't taken any action against the radicals Kumar named in his complaint.

"I counted the costs of serving God when I came here," Kumar told ICC, adding: "A number of pastors in my region have been attacked, and some have even given up their lives for the sake of the Gospel. I don't mind suffering for the sake of the Gospel."



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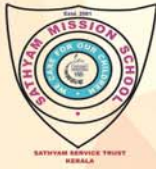
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