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DIGEST ON CHRISTENDOM

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“The Decline of the Assemblies”

Dr.Alexander kurian

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

Pastor Matt Costella

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CONTENTS

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PAGE

1.	Editorial.....	3
2.	Back to Home:	4
3.	Family or Feud.....	6
4.	The Decline of the Assemblies: <i>Dr Alexander Kurian</i>	7
5.	Lead by Example: A Challenge to Today's Christiantyouth: <i>Pastor Matt Costella</i>	10
6.	God's Narrow and Wide-Angle Lenses.....	15
7.	NormalizatiOn Of Homosexuality. <i>Franklin Graham</i>	18
8.	The Value Of Mental Health Counseling	20
9.	What Is Christian Hope?	22

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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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*"You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble
and surround me with songs of deliverance"*

Psalm 32:7

EDITORIAL



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Greetings to you in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

This year has been particularly challenging and has introduced us to a new normal, a normal that was impossible to comprehend. With the loss of family members, jobs, change in systems, we are faced with grief, confusion, and doubt. Work from home, zoom classes, travel restrictions, masks, and numerous other factors have all imposed challenges in our lives and changed our pattern of living. Despite what goes on in the world, our anchor is in Jesus Christ alone because He has commanded us to "FEAR NOT!" Circumstances in this world may change, but our Saviour is the same yesterday, today and forever and He will never change.

As many countries in the world are facing the second wave of lockdowns and an increase in the number of Covid-19 cases, this is the time to shift our focus, realign our priorities, and fix our hope on God during this season of uncertainty. We cannot negate the struggles, but we can surely overcome them through the grace God has bestowed upon us even in the midst of a precarious situation.

I want to encourage each one of our readers to never give up and to never lose hope. Whatever struggles you may be facing during this time, we would like to pray for you and your family and remind you that God loves you. May this month's magazine strengthen your walk with God and uplift you to face the challenges of everyday life. May your faith in God and your relationship with Him thrive during this season and always. Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Dr. C.V. Vadavana'.

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

BACK TO SCHOOL?

Melanie Gomez

We recently had to make an important choice: back to school or not? This is a tough decision being faced by families all over the world, and each has its own pros and cons to be weighed. In the special needs' world, it is a particularly challenging subject.

Nick started school in-person. And although in years past I would post the traditional “back to school” pictures and summaries, I felt a little awkward about it this year and ended up staying quiet. Of Nick's classmates, only he and one other student actually returned to the classroom. The rest of the parents opted to remain at-home for the time being.

I realized there were a lot of varied opinions, concerns, fears and perhaps judgements being made on the subject of whether or not it's a good idea to send my son, who has a rare genetic disorder, back to school. Clearly, the majority of parents at his school felt differently.

The stark difference in our approach to what is best for our children reminds me of the broader struggle within the special needs parenting world: the tendency to compare ourselves with others and to second-guess our—or their—decisions.

I love that while the Bible is universal and God's Word applies to all of us, it shows us that “different strokes for different folks” is how God's kingdom is designed. During Moses' life, for example, God instructed him to approach similar problems in very different ways. During Jesus' ministry on earth, He addressed people with the same issue in a variety of different ways. What I learned in studying God's Word is that He guides each of us on our own unique path, which is laid out specific to our purpose, destiny and calling.

Here is how I've learned to navigate the difficult choices that need to be made for our kids when there is no clear right or wrong.

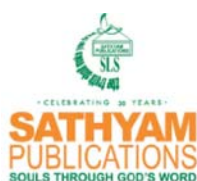
1. First, by praying about it. It sounds obvious, but so many times I forget this step, specifically bringing a decision before the Lord and asking Him to guide me.
2. Next, I check myself. Searching my heart to make sure that neither comparison, judgement, pride nor fear are leading my choices. Where I find one (or several) of those holding influence, I repent and expose those things to the light where they can't control my decision.
3. Finally, I allow the peace that comes with a decision led by the Holy Spirit to direct my path.

This process works the same in any of the areas where we can get caught up in what other parents are doing. There are daily choices we must make on behalf of our child, which are not clearly “right or wrong” but rather where we are expected to seek the counsel of the Lord for our situation. There is no one way to treat any two children—no matter if the diagnosis is the same, prognosis is the same, educational challenge is the same, etc.

October 2020

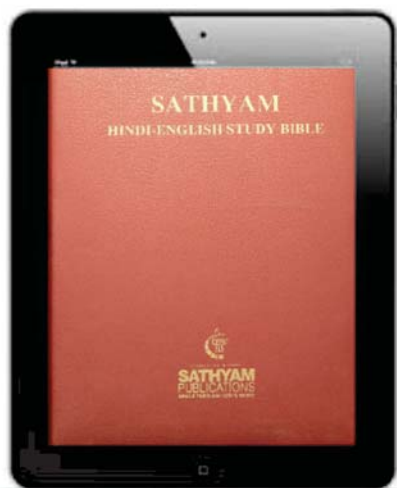
So, in this season of even more difficult decisions, let's not make it harder on ourselves (or others) by assuming there is only one way. There is one answer that applies very specifically to me: that is the one I should seek prayerfully and soberly. And then walk in the conviction that in following the leadership and peace of the Holy Spirit, God will guide me—and set in place guide rails for me—as I intend to follow His plan for us. He will certainly lead others differently. Let that not worry my heart, nor distract my mind from His voice and leading.

If your child has gone back to school—good job! If you're not sending your child back to school—good job! As long as you've prayed about it and feel like you are making the right choice for your family, you have done your job.



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Family or Feud

Angela Koshy



Environmental stability coincides with mental stability. Creating a home that welcomes children with love and support allows for a child to succeed. A house filled with anger and disappointment displayed as shouting and resentment brings forth an unstable child.

Instability lives in various forms. It is the child who feels anxious every time their parents speak to each other. Afraid that a small interaction might turn into a push-and-shove altercation. It is the child who is afraid to speak up about why they are not doing well in school. Too afraid to communicate to their parents that the toxic energy in the house prevents them from being able to focus in school and at home. It is the child who vomits in secret due to her stomach being in knots. So twisted and contorted because the anxiety in her mind has taken form as a monster inside her digestive system. It is the child who cries herself through restless nights. Unable to attain even one proper sleep cycle, the tossing and turning, the suicidal thoughts that are churning.

Incapable of being able to communicate with your spouse in a respectable and calm manner causes a “natural disaster” in the coding sequence of your child's mind. It reduces the size of their mental capacity which causes the extreme loss of focus. The part that is humorous to me is that parents will yell at their children for failing in school when in fact they are undeniably at fault for it. Understanding that your household has a problem is the first step to solving the problem.

Therapy is something that our community condones because of the social embarrassment that comes along with it. The fear that society will judge us if we ask for help. It is crazy because as adults we remind those younger than us that if they have a question, they should ask. Then why is it so taboo to meet with a family counselor or a marriage counselor. It is like a child who has tried their best to find the answer in the book and was unable to, so he requests the teacher's assistance. So also, if you and your spouse are unable to solve your problems at home then you should request therapy. Think of it as simply asking for help from someone with answers.

“Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old, they will not turn from it”. Proverbs 22:6 reminds us that the family unit is the most critical foundational base. If the home is filled with anxiety so also will the mind of the child. If the mind of a child is relaxed then only expect success in other areas of their life. School life, work life and the relationship quality of your child all depends on their upbringing. Display what God's affection and patience looks like. Children learn by what they see, so make sure that the conversations you have with your spouse and the moments of interaction are peaceful. For a peaceful home means a peaceful family, and a peaceful family allows for a peaceful mind.

THE DECLINE OF THE ASSEMBLIES

DR. ALEXANDER KURIAN

(Continued)

Lack of Positive Changes

Positive changes are not compromises. Transformational change is biblical (Rom.12:2). Transformational renewal of the mind leads us to discern the will of God. This will help us to bring necessary and appropriate changes for our growth, testimony and blessings. But generally, most assemblies are very reluctant to make changes. Tunnel vision, built in traditionalism, legalism and parochialism and an attitude of uninformed ignorance serve as a defense mechanism against being realistic about necessary changes. These changes may be needed in relation to a number of areas - Review and evaluation of all the ongoing ministries, Worship & Remembrance, prayer meetings, youth meetings, VBS, Sunday school, the format of the meetings, days, schedule/timings, music, pulpit ministry, curriculum for Bible Study, Men's meeting, Sisters' meetings special ministry needs to various age groups in the assembly, methodology in evangelism/outreach etc. There is a great need to renew our efforts, especially in evangelism. Since meetings and ministries are not periodically evaluated, we seldom understand the need for making appropriate changes without doctrinal compromise. Don't we think we must responsibly formulate a philosophy of ministry that is truly biblical, practical and relevant to our needs, which will help us to move forward?

"Our way is the best way", or "we have been doing it for years" is usually the cherished argument. In business meetings, camps and conferences, the need for change is sometimes discussed. But nothing really happens because we don't want to make changes. There is little scope for change when we adamantly think that Sunday 9 am or Wednesday 7.30 pm is as sacred as the virgin birth or second coming. Think about the many splits in the history of the Brethren Movement. Most of them were over petty, non-essential and peripheral issues. It is the same even today; "majoring" on "minors."

It is true that the Lord is building the church, but the saints have the responsibility to "shape" the church. If we are open and willing, the Spirit of God will lead us in

relation to the challenges and issues facing us today. I believe this is the path of renewal, revival and revitalization.

Traditionalism & Legalism

Traditionalism and legalism are placed in many assemblies on par with Scripture and many believers do not know which is what! Many traditions are stifling the work of the Spirit in many assemblies. Personal preferences and traditional practices (most of them may be good and noble) are interpreted as infallible doctrines and imposed upon others without any Scriptural warrant. As one young man recently told me, in his assembly, everything that is done is an "assembly distinctive" and there is no room for any flexibility on any matter.

Though we claim that we are non-denominational and non-sectarian, many a times our policies and practices are sectarian to the core. Matters of fellowship, reception, commendation letter, song books, Bible translation etc. are taken in some assemblies to legalistic extremes and imposed as Scriptural norm. Some unscriptural practices and policies of the exclusive and closed/rigid/tight Brethren have adversely affected many assemblies. The original Brethren ideal of non-denominationalism, non-sectarianism, unswerving commitment to the Word (and Word alone), unity and fellowship in the Body of Christ, are all simply a thing of the past. That is why we have so many different "varieties" of the Brethren today. Most of these "varieties" and "branches" have no meaningful fellowship with one another and also despise one another. This party spirit has evidently tarnished our testimony around the world. Lack of cooperation between assemblies, lack of shared information, and reluctance for united gospel efforts have all weakened us. The cherished doctrine of the autonomy of the local assembly has been blown out of proportion in many places at the expense of interdependence for fellowship and mutual ministry efforts.

There is a general trend prevalent among the Brethren for an "exclusive claim" for Scriptural truth and that we

are the only ones “gathered unto the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.” This has created an isolationist and narrow-minded mentality of total detachment from other sound evangelical believers. This opens the way for spiritual pride. Harry Ironside, William MacDonald and several others had warned against this trend. Anthony Norris Groves (in my estimation, he incarnated the original Brethren ideals at its best) warned against the Brethren becoming known more for what they witnessed against than what they witnessed for. Let us be careful not to distort the original Scriptural vision of the Brethren renewal spirit. Or, has it already happened?

Finally, Brethren

“Where there is no vision, the people perish” (Prov.29:18). How true! Over time, every movement become degenerative. No Christian movement, church or denomination has ever been automatically self-renewing. To recapture the original vision, we need power from on high and a courageous spirit for action. We all need to challenge ourselves on how we feel about all this. Don't we care? Are we comforting ourselves that our own assembly is not closed yet? Are we Biblical as we think as we are? To whom should we be loyal? Let us confess our failures and be willing to rectify it. It is time for reality check and realistic action. In some parts of the world, we can see growing assemblies and believers who practice New Testament principles. They are an exception to the rule. I am sure until the Lord comes, there will be churches like this that will grow and prosper. They continue to rediscover the wonderful biblical heritage of the Brethren and want to practice it in grace and truth, ministering effectively in their generation. Let our assemblies be a place of teaching, caring, serving, and loving in a hurting and broken world. Let our assemblies be grace-oriented

fellowships, and not a law-oriented closed groups. May the Lord increase the number of such gathered unto His name.

The sobering mood of Roy Hill's words (in the article mentioned at the beginning) really shook me up. “Is it really possible that assembly truth extensively and expensively rediscovered should disappear after two centuries? Are present New Testament assemblies a two-century phenomenon?”

What I have written is just a sharing of the vision of renewal. I have called attention to these concerns time and again. I am happy to say at least a minority have appreciated it and prayerfully implemented some necessary changes. Several share their burdens, ask counsel and request prayers. I again write and discuss these matters as I see our young generation have lost its respect for the assemblies due to reasons discussed here. Many have already left us. It should pain us. The mistake is not only on their part; **we also are responsible**. Let us be willing to admit it. This should humble us to make necessary changes toward edification and revitalization based on Scriptural truths. I hope and pray that it will become a reality at least in some assemblies.

I know that what I have written will not make me popular. It may be misunderstood, misinterpreted, and criticized. My approach has been realistic, factual and practical. But I hope these pages will be helpful for those who are willing to be helped and have the courage to make whatever changes may be needed. “I wish all of us can have the attitude of David: “Let the righteous smite me in kindness and reprove me; it is oil upon the head. Do not let my head refuse it” (Psalm 141:5).

“He who has an ear let him hear.”

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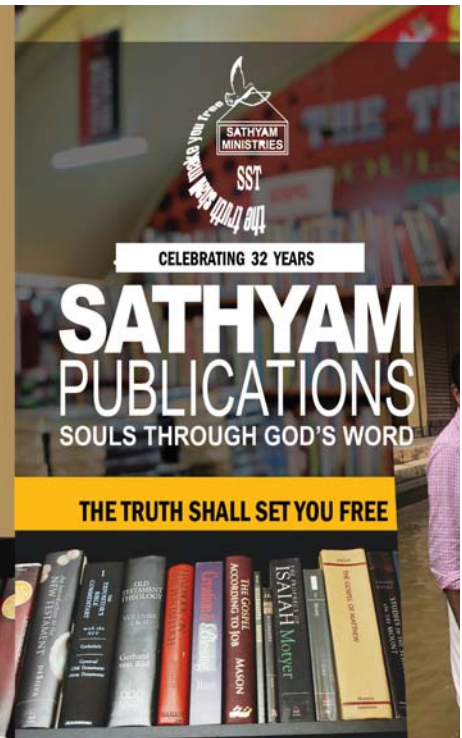
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Lead by Example :

A Challenge to Today's

Christian Youth (Continued)



Pastor Matt Costella

All around us on the part of both adults and other young people?

I understand the struggles and pressures faced by young people today. Having been educated in both Christian schools and public universities, I certainly understand the unique tests and trials that accompany those younger believers who attend either Christian schools or public ones. Even those who are home schooled are not exempt from peer pressure and from the pressure of the media to conform to the standards and lifestyles of the world. All of us are bombarded by television programs, commercials, music, billboards, video games, magazines, newspapers and movies that give us the impression that to rebel against all authority is cool; that parents are old, out-of-touch "has beens" who do not know what they are talking about; that sex, lust and immorality are perfectly acceptable as long as one is honest and responsible.

We are being targeted whether we realize it or not!

Advertisers today specifically target our generation. They slyly pressure us to buy their products so that we can feel stylish and cool. We are constantly pressured by the media to conform to the standards of the world and to be accepted by the unsaved within society. Why? Because it is financially beneficial to them. They use us for our money and could care less about our physical or spiritual well-being. Sadly, even young people who profess to be saved are largely responsible for pressuring other Christian young people to live like the world, act like the world, talk like the world and dress like the world. How are we to respond to these pressures?

First, we all must realize that the ideas and philosophies of the world are completely opposed to God's will and plan for us. The world tells us to "live it up" as young people while we can. The immorality and worldliness embraced and practiced by many of our peers are often

excused even by those who are older than us who say, "They're just kids," or "They're only young once... let them live and enjoy all the world has to offer while they still can." But notice what the wisest man who ever lived wrote by inspiration of the Holy Spirit in Ecclesiastes 12:1. King Solomon wrote: "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth." Notice that Solomon did not say: "Live it up while you are young, and later on you will have the opportunity to serve and glorify God." No, he said exactly the opposite. He tells young people, "Now is the time to focus on your relationship with God, the Creator of all things."

The attitudes of the world in which we live completely contradict the exhortations found in God's Word. Even in 1 Timothy 4:12, Paul does not tell Timothy, "Since you are young, you have God's permission to live a wild lifestyle if you will promise to live for Him when you get older." Nor does Paul tell Timothy, "While you are young, give the older generation a reason or an excuse to get on your case about the way you are living and acting." On the contrary, the apostle commands Timothy to do exactly the opposite! This young man is instructed to live a blameless life and be an example to others so those who are older will not have a reason to look down on him.

Second, we must realize that the older generation who often "gets on our case" is not solely to blame. Many young people today do everything in their power to rebel and shock those who are older. Our generation frequently gives our elders good reasons to criticize our attitudes and behavior. But Paul tells Timothy: "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example."

See, we find from this verse that Paul tells Timothy to silence those who would be critical of his age by living an exemplary life. When Paul says, "Let no man despise thy youth," he is telling Timothy, "Don't let older men and women look down on you simply because you are young."

October 2020

How is Timothy to enforce this command? He must not give them a reason to do so. Instead, he must live a life that is blameless and be an example to believers and unbelievers alike of how to honor and please God. To be an example "of the believers" means he is to be an example to other believers as well as to those who are unsaved.

In the New Testament, Paul also addressed another young man, Titus, and told him, "In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you" (Titus 2:7,8). As a young man, Titus was to be an example, a pattern, to

all other believers in many areas of his life including his doctrine, his speech and his sincerity. Living an exemplary life was not only honoring to God, but it also stopped the mouths of those who would be critical of him simply because he was young.

No one today can claim that young people do not have the ability to be leaders, to be righteous, to be holy or even to understand the teaching of the Word of God (correct doctrine). No, both Timothy and Titus were urged to be examples in all areas of their lives. Paul trusted Timothy to the extent that he even commanded him to stay in the city of Ephesus in order to "charge [command] some that they teach no other doctrine" (1 Tim. 1:3). That was certainly a big responsibility for a young man!

To be continue.....



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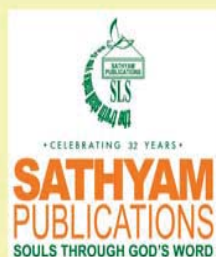
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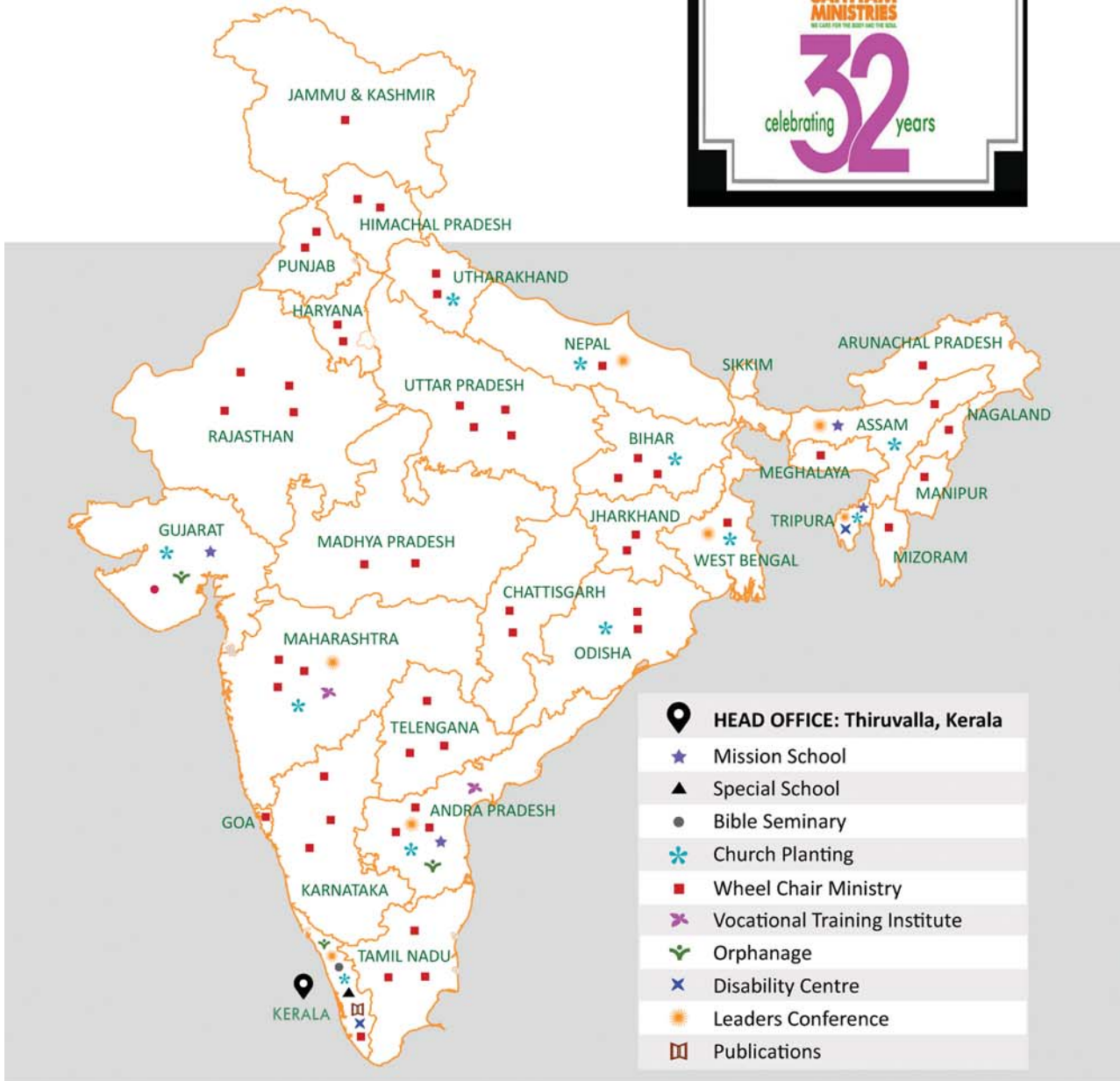
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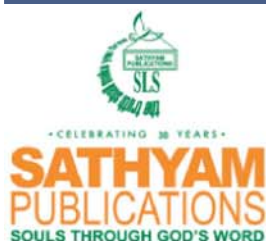
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God's Narrow and Wide-Angle Lenses



Joni Eareckson Tada

"Though he brings grief, he will show compassion, so great is his unfailing love. For he does not willingly bring affliction or grief to the children of men."- —Lamentations 3:32-33

When my paralyzing accident happened, I know the Lord took no pleasure in it. I believe it pained his heart to see me hurt, just as any father has compassion on his child. Yet I also know it pleased the Lord to permit my accident. He was as delighted then as he is now to work it all out for my good and his glory. Sound confusing? I can understand why: in some Scriptures God is described as grieving over affliction; in others it doesn't seem to bother him.

Dr. John Piper explains it this way: God has the capacity to look at the world through two lenses, a narrow lens and a wide-angle lens. When the Lord looks at a painful event through the narrow lens, he sees the tragedy for what it is in itself, and he is deeply grieved, as Ezekiel 18:32 says: "I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD." He hates the isolated incident of disease, crime, or violence.

But when God looks at a painful event through his wide-angle lens, he sees the tragedy in relation to everything leading up to it, as well as everything that flows from it. He has in mind Romans 8:28, "In all things God works for the good of those who love him," and Ephesians 1:11, "...according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will." The connections form a mosaic stretching into eternity. This mosaic—in all its parts of good and evil, dark and light—brings him delight.

God often wills what he despises, because he has two lenses. You can trust him today that your painful trial is part of a pattern. One day you too will put on that wide-angle lens. When you do, what a beautiful mosaic you will see.

My shortsightedness, Lord, keeps me from seeing how pain can result in good. Help me to look through the lens of faith.



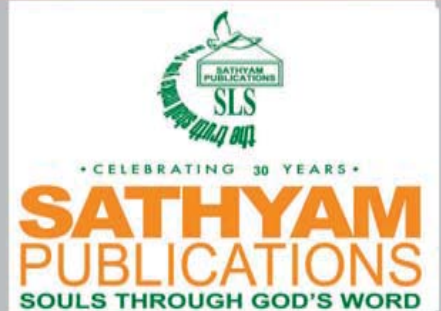
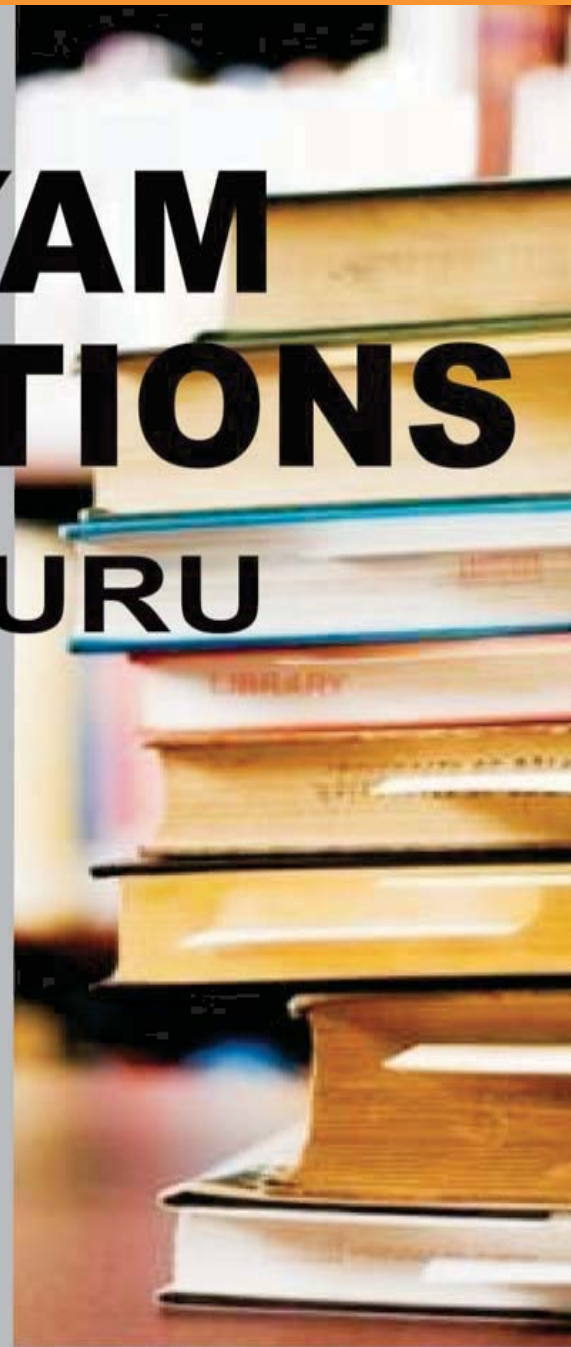
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NORMALIZATION OF HOMOSEXUALITY

FRANKLIN GRAHAM

The news has reported that Pope Francis said in a new documentary that “homosexuals have a right to be part of the family” and is calling for civil union laws for same-sex couples. I find these comments from the Pope unthinkable in the light of the Word of God.

The Bible teaches that when God created the human race, “He created them male and female, and blessed them...” (Genesis 5:2). The first family consisted of a male husband and a female wife, then their children, which is how God defined society's most basic social unit, the family. The Bible makes it clear that God disapproved when “women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another...” (Romans 1:26-27)

The Holy Scriptures are clear- the love of God is completely inclusive. He loves each and every person, whatever choices we have made that are contrary to His standard. “All have sinned...” (Romans 3:23) and that includes me. But the Good News is that Jesus Christ came to this earth to save sinners by taking our sins on Himself to the cross where He bled and died, was buried, and God raised Him to life on the third day. In order for us to be saved, God requires that we repent of our sins-

that means to turn away from those sins and to leave them- and put our faith and trust in His Son, Jesus Christ who paid the penalty for sin.

For Pope Francis to attempt to normalize homosexuality is to say that Holy Scriptures are false, that our sins really don't matter, and that we can continue living in them. If that were true, then Jesus Christ's death burial, and resurrection wouldn't have been needed. The cross would have been for nothing. No one has the right or the authority to trivialize Christ's sacrifice on our behalf.

Yes, God makes it clear that He loves us and does want us to be part of His family, but He also tells us how that can happen. The Bible says, “Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.” (Acts 3:19) I want everyone to know the truth and to find the peace that comes only from fully surrendering our lives to Him and His commands. The consequence of an unrepentant, unbelieving heart is also clear in the Word of God- eternal death. Unless we repent and receive His offer of forgiveness, surrendering our lives to Him, we will spend eternity as part of a different family when we leave this earth- the family of the condemned.



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THE VALUE OF MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

Thomas Kulanjiyil, PhD



Despite the great need for mental health services, Asian Indians, in general, scarcely seek out for counseling services. Among many factors that include cultural inhibition to self-disclosure, and misconceptions about counseling, lack of education about the nature and benefit of counseling keep them close-minded. In this article I would like to talk about some of the most important characteristics and benefits of counseling.

People respond to emotional problems quite differently. Some people live in denial of their problems; some "bottle-in" their problems; some minimize their problems, and some try to "self-fix" their problems. Then there are those who seek help from family members and close friends, and this is the typical Asian Indian attitude to handling problems. The positive thing about this is that at least some are able to approach somebody for help. The flip side of this is that people wait to seek help until they reach a point where they can not conceal or handle their problems alone. Another problem with this approach is that the family members and friends may not have the expertise and skills to help the person in need, unless they are trained in professional counseling.

Some problems are within people's awareness, and some are not. Sometimes people know what is causing them to feel or to act in certain manner but have no clue as how to overcome those

difficulties. Some people have no awareness of their problems at all. Most people fail to recognize that their problems are multilayered, and that an understanding of the root to their problems is essential to attempting workable solutions.

Counseling or psychotherapy, generally described as "talk therapy," is a means to treat emotional problems. It provides an opportunity for people to verbalize thoughts and feelings associated with their problems. In a one-to-one relationship with a counselor, in the atmosphere of mutual trust, and empathic relationship, the client is facilitated to verbalize his or her thoughts and feelings. In a collaborative work that characterizes counseling, the client is gradually helped to recognize the nature and extent of his or her problems, and to attempt possible solutions. Counseling begins with an informed consent, which is a written consent form that clients give to counselors to begin the work. Clients make informed decisions to participate or not to participate in counseling. The consent is voluntary. Autonomy of the individual is valued in counseling and the client is treated as an independent, free, and self-directing agent. Counseling services are provided in an atmosphere of confidentiality, and all counselors have the ethical responsibility and professional duty to protect patients from unauthorized disclosures. These professional ethical tenets are aimed at ensuring the welfare of clients.

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What is Christian Hope?

Randall McElwain

*Weeping may tarry for the night,
but joy comes with the morning (Psalm 30:5)*

In J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Two Towers*, the army of Rohan defends the mountain fortress at Hornburg against a massive army of orcs led by Saruman. Although their situation is dire, Rohan's army refuses to surrender because Gandalf has promised to come to their rescue. Through the night, they remember his words, "Look east at dawn."

At sunrise, "sudden and terrible, from the tower above, the sound of the great horn of Helm rang out. All that heard that sound trembled. Many of the Orcs cast themselves on their faces and covered their ears with their claws." Deliverance had come!

Christian hope has been defined as "confidence in the presence, goodness, and purposes of God." Christian hope is the conviction that although "weeping may tarry for the night," morning will come – and with the morning will come joy. There will be battles, but we do not despair because God has promised deliverance.

Christian hope is confidence in the presence of God. We have hope because "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14). In the darkest hours and loneliest situations, we know that God is present with us. God has stepped into our world in the person of Jesus. He is Immanuel, "God with us" (Matthew 1:23). Through him, we have hope.

Christian hope is confidence in the goodness of God. Christian hope is more than wishful

thinking; it is a confident expectation based on the character of God. David testified, "I waited patiently for the Lord" (Psalm 40:1). This verse can be translated, "I relied completely on the Lord." David's hope was grounded on God's goodness.

Christians live with the conviction that evil will not have the last word. We see the power of sin, but we know that this world is not the end. God will ultimately triumph over evil.

Christian hope is confidence in the purposes of God. Christian hope is a confident trust that God will accomplish His aims in my life. Our confidence in God's purposes gives hope in times of difficulty. David prayed, "I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope" (Psalm 130:5). Because of hope, he could wait with patience for God to fulfill His purpose. Because of hope, Simeon was patiently "waiting for the consolation of Israel" (Luke 2:25).

Hopeful Christians do not despair when the answer is delayed. We refuse to become impatient with people or situations because we know that God will work His purpose in His time and His way.

Christian hope is more than the mild optimism of "positive thinkers." It is more than a casual wish that "everything will turn out for the best." Christian hope is a transformed way of looking at the world. It is trust in "the presence, goodness, and purposes of God." That trust brings genuine, lasting hope.

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