

## From the Editor's Desk



*Happiness is the ultimate objective of our life.*

God created man for absolute happiness. He wanted man to subdue the earth and eat of the fruit of the Earth. He said 'be fruitful and multiply' (Gen.1.28).

But man in all his stupidity disobeyed God and lost the paradise.

He lost the happiness that God designed for whole mankind.

However, how do we now restore the lost happiness? This is a million dollar question.

Every religion stipulates certain ways to obtain happiness.

Christianity lays down the Sermon on the Mount (Mt.5).

The Sermon on the Mount sums up all the teachings of Jesus Christ. The 8 beatitudes are the 8 gems upon the crown of Christian life. Just above the 8 gems is embedded the Cross of Christ.

Once you carry these gems on your crown, yes, your life will be full of happiness. But every gem has certain paradoxes and contradictions within that we may address as suffering.

Hence be ready for suffering.

2014 is full of happiness for you. It carries within health and blessings for you.

The Sermon on the Mount is a beautiful teaching of Jesus Christ that possesses happiness and life eternal.

God blessed Noah because he followed God's laws. He pleased God and not man.

Abraham remained faithful to God and was blessed at the end. He became the father of faith. He pleased God and not man.

Jacob, Isaac, Joseph, Joshua, Aaron, King David, King Solomon and all such men of God in the OT pleased God and were blessed abundantly. They made some blunders in their life and yet they amended their ways and realized their faults and became obedient to God.

*When do we lose our happiness?*

When we become selfish, drunkard and greedy, we stop being happy. When we do not plan our time, when we waste our precious time in gossip, when we don't pay attention to our religious duties, when we don't respect others, when we consider traditions and rituals higher than human persons, when we do not tolerate others, when we pick up quarrel with others, when we lose our temper, when we do not follow the laws of our nation, when we become lazy, when we give room to filthy thoughts and feelings, when we indulge in calumny and slander, when we intend bad for others, when we cheat others, when we long for power and wealth at the cost of others, when we bluff others maliciously, when we succumb to wrong relationships, when we indulge in immoral desires..... Yes, in all such circumstances we lose our happiness.

When a cow begets a calf, the latter lives according to its nature, when a cub is born of a tiger, the former reflects the qualities of its mother. When a chick is hatched, it proves the nature of the hen. But when man is born, he becomes and lives not really to the nature of man with rationality, but goes beyond his human nature and at times becomes animalistic or barbaric.

*Then what is the way to amend ourselves and get back our happiness? Read Mk.1:15*

‘Repent, the Kingdom of God is at hand’.

2014 will be a year of happiness and prosperity if you believe in Jesus Christ.

**JESUS IS THE TRUE SON OF GOD, THE MESSIAH MK.15:39**

## **Editor**



### **What does a child know about Birthdays?**

Some time ago, a couple had arranged a party for the 1st birthday of their baby. In my calculation, I guess they would have spent nearly two lakh for the whole celebration. I reflected on what the celebration meant; for whose joy it is celebrated after all, as the baby was absolutely oblivious about the event. I concluded that the external celebration in the name of the baby was actually for the joy and satisfaction of the parents and friends. Here the baby sees, but cannot take cognisance of what is happening outside the baby's limited world.

Well, Christmas is one such festival celebrated by the entire world in the name of Child Jesus. Trillions of money is spent all over the globe every year on the occasion of the birthday of Infant Jesus.

Speaking of the birthday celebration of that one year old baby, a small business was established. In other words, parents of the baby invited relatives and friends. They printed invitation cards, food was catered, hall was hired, decorators were hired, toys and balloons were hung, serial lights glittered and by the end of the celebration the invitees stood in a queue and handed over gifts small and big to the parents for the baby. They had sumptuous dinner and after another word of thanks and wishes they departed. The parents expected gifts and the invitees expected mouth watering food and good treatment. This is just a small business. Although there is an element of appreciation for the parents by the invitees, still there is a hidden agenda of income and outcome. A very business-oriented world indeed!

Often the baby on the stage was almost forgotten, except for a small kiss or touch sometimes, but decoration, food, hospitality was not ignored even for a moment.

Who can deny that Christmas is a business festival? How many know the real essence of Christmas? The commercial world plays an active role in the Christmas celebration. The true meaning of Christmas is forgotten. Christmas tree, Santa Claus, shining star, hanging papers, crib in a corner, Christmas cards, sumptuous dinner and party are the elements that are given more importance to. Infant Jesus is almost neglected and forgotten.

It is not the small statue of infant Jesus that requires all attention, but the true salvation that was brought forth by the birth of Jesus. The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us (Jn.1:14). This verse sums up the whole truth of the nativity of Jesus, Our Saviour.

His birth brings joy and peace. His birth assures the dignity of us humans. His birth consolidates our faith in God. His birth is the guarantee of light shining for the gentiles too. His birth is a call for holiness and simplicity.

While celebrating Christmas externally, we cannot forget and neglect the Infant Jesus who goes unnoticed in real life. To celebrate Christmas, millions of rupees is not as essential as the commercial world thinks, but we need a sacred heart that is full of love and compassion for others.

Human dignity and respect is all the more essential for the celebration.

Often or many a times, in the first birthday celebration of the baby, parents or relatives end up with petty quarrels and depart with bitter feelings; of course, the child is unaffected. However, when we celebrate Christmas in the midst of quarrels, hatred and fights, Jesus watches us, hears us and responds to our mockery of his 'Birthday Event' (NATIVITY IN BETHLEHEM).

Believers in Christ, but divided over language, caste, region and race will never be able to celebrate Christmas meaningfully. Uniformity will not bring harmony all the time but finding harmony in variety is what the baby Jesus in the manger looks for.

The Infant Jesus should not go unnoticed by us in our expression of the meaning of Christmas. At the same time, we should be able to celebrate it with gaiety because He is the Saviour of the World born to save us and bring life eternal to us. It is essential to first celebrate it inwardly and then outwardly.

We must foster exchange of greetings by personal visits, and reconcile with people we no longer talk to or don't want to restore the relationship with. A calculative way of spending money for the external expression of Christmas can be through the carrying of food stuff to the door of non-Christians just to share the good news of the birth of the world's saviour. Other ways of a spending a meaningful Christmas would be in attending the midnight service as part of a parish community or church community, as well as taking no drinks oneself and also encouraging others not to drink.

While Christmas has gone apart, its spirit must remain in us throughout the year. For a happy individual, for a happy family every day is Christmas that goes along with Good Friday and Resurrection.

**Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year 2014**

### **A Generous Business Partner ( GOD)**

*One day, a very wealthy man was walking on the road. Along the way, he saw a beggar on the sidewalk.*

*The rich man looks kindly at the beggar and asked, "How did you become a beggar?"*



*The beggar said, "Sir, I've been applying for a job for a year now but haven't found any. You look like a rich man.*

*Sir, if you'll give me a job, I'll stop begging."*

*The rich man smiled and said, "I want to help you. But I won't give you a job. I'll do something better.*

*I want you to be my business partner. Let's start a business together.*

*The beggar blinked hard. He didn't understand what the older man was saying. "What do you mean, Sir?"*

*"I own a rice plantation. You could sell my rice in the market. I'll provide you the sacks of rice.*

*I'll pay the rent for the market stall.*

*All you'll have to do is sell my rice. And at the end of the month, as Business Partners, we'll share the profits.*

*Tears of joy rolled down his cheeks. "Oh Sir," he said, "you're a gift from Heaven. You're the answer to my prayers.*

*Thank you, thank you, thank you!" He then paused and said, "Sir, how will we divide the profits?"*

*Do I keep 10% and you get the 90%? Do I keep 5% and you get the 95%? I'll be happy with any arrangement.*

*The rich man shook his head and chuckled. "No, I want you to give me the 10%. And you keep the 90%.*

*For a moment, the beggar couldn't speak. When he tried to speak, it was gibberish. "Uh, gee, uh, wow, I mean, huh?"*

*He couldn't believe his ears. The deal was too preposterous.*

*The rich man laughed more loudly. He explained, I don't need the money, my friend.*

*I'm already wealthy beyond what you can ever imagine.*

*I want you to give me 10% of your profits so you grow in gratitude.*

*The beggar knelt down before his benefactor and said, "Yes Sir, I will do as you say.*

*Even now, I'm so grateful for what you've done for me!"*

*And so that was what happened. He forgets where the blessings came from.*

*Each day, the beggar now dressed a little bit better operated a store selling rice in the market. He worked very hard.*

*He woke up early in the morning and slept late at night. And sales were brisk, also because the rice was of good quality.*

*And after 30 days, the profits were astounding.*

*At the end of the month, as the ex-beggar was counting the money, and liking very much the feeling of money in his hands, an idea grew in his mind.*

*He told himself, "Gee, why should I give 10% to my Business Partner? I didn't see him the whole month! I was the one who was working day and night for this business. I did all this work! I deserve the 100% profits!"*

*A few minutes later, the rich man was knocking on the door to collect his 10% share of the profits.*

*The ex-beggar opened the door and said, "You don't deserve the 10%. I worked hard for this.*

***I deserve all of it!" And he slammed the door.***

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***If you were his Business Partner, how would you feel?***

*Friend, this is exactly what happens to us*

*God is Our Business Partner!*

*God gave us life; every single moment, every single breath, and every single second.*

*God gave us talents; ability to talk, to create, to earn money.*

*God gave us a body; eyes, ears, mouth, hands, feet, heart.*

*God gave us mind; imagination, emotions, reasoning, language.*

***So do we need to give back Our Business Partner something in return?***

***Who is the beggar?***

**00000000000000000000000000000000**

### **INNER LIBERATION**



**Fr.J.A.Nathan**

He was in the prison for 26 long years. He spent little less than one third of his life in the prison run by the apartheid in Pretoria. He fought tooth and nail for the liberation of his people. In the long run he achieved what he wanted for his black people.

Do you know whom I am referring to? He is none other than the Noble Prize winner and Bharat Ratna award winner and the peace icon, NELSON MANDELA. He is hailed as African Gandhi.

Today he is no more. He breached his last on Friday, 6.12.2013. The whole world paid rain of tributes to him. A great man was that he was not tired of talking about liberation, freedom and independence for the Black of South Africa from the Whites of the Pretoria regime.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, himself a towering figure in the struggle against apartheid that defined much of Mandela's life, told congregants at St. George's Anglican Cathedral early on Friday, "Let us give him the gift of a South Africa united one"... Yes, we the Christians of all denominations should give the new Born King a Church united one.

We often talk about liberation. 'I want to be free from him', 'I want to be free from her'. When parents want to exercise authority over children, the latter feel the need of liberation. If children show authority and money power over the parents say the elderly, the latter seek liberation from their own children. When one individual exercises his/her superiority over other individuals, the latter wants somehow to get away from the former. Even a little baby feeling not comfortable with a stranger or a relative cries aloud to come away from that person.

'Freedom is my birthright' said great freedom fighter, Bala Gangadar Tilak. The words 'Freedom' 'liberation' 'independence' are widely used in the present political as well as in the individuals' world.

You know, he was a simple man. He lived almost as an ascetic; he ate locusts and wild honey. He wore camel's hair. He cried aloud in the wilderness. He cried out, 'repent the kingdom of God is near..'. He spoke of liberation. He wanted his people to be liberated. He was not coward to be cowed down by his transgressors. He spoke truth, only the truth and only about the truth although he had to pay his physical life for that daring preaching.

**Can you guess whom am I referring to? ST JOHN THE BAPTIST. JOHN THE**



### **BAPTISER.**

He was a very bold man of God. He was the cousin of Jesus. He was six months older to Jesus. He was a fore runner of Jesus. He revealed the Lamb of God to the world. He stood for justice. He said, 'I baptize with water, but the one who comes after me will baptize with water and fire namely the Holy Spirit'. Referring to Jesus he said, "He must increase and I must decrease".

There were two deer, male and female. They were in love with each other. Once they searched for water in a forest. After a long tread, they found a small pond with little water in it. Each one thought, 'If I drink this little water all myself, perhaps my lover may not have sufficient to drink'. So they pretended to drink just by placing their mouth on the water. However none of them drank the water from the pond. The water level in the pond remained the same. Each of these deer felt, 'let my lover increase and I must decrease'. This is called the real sacrifice.

Such was the spirit that John the Baptist had in his mind. He felt Jesus was greater than himself. This is an attitude that most of us lack and for this attitude, he became greater in heaven than anyone else. He was a very humble man. He said, 'I am unworthy even to untie his sandals'.

His preaching of repentance was one of liberation. He said, 'He must increase and I must decrease'. Yes, who will get this sort of thought? Only those who are filled with the Spirit of God and Grace of God. John is a model for us. We need to be filled with grace and the Spirit of God. Those who aspire for the grace of God, such people receive special blessings of God and they desire only good for others.

When a wife does her daily household chores with the following words to herself, 'My husband should increase and I must decrease' and when a husband says to himself, 'My wife should increase and I must decrease', in such family peace prevails, prosperity comes in, family members have tremendous health of body and mind. Such family will flourish like that of Jacobs in the OT. Jacob desired the blessings from his father Isaac and God bestowed on with special plan for Jacob.

John the Baptist cried out for repentance. He preached, 'Repent and make your ways straight, the Kingdom is near.' His call for repentance was a call for liberation, independence and freedom. Repentance means liberation from one's carnal desires, freedom from one's selfishness, drunkenness, and lustful desires that will result in sin.

Nelson Mandela cried for liberation for the blacks of South Africa from the Pretoria's apartheid regime. His call was one of utmost importance for the people of South Africa. For his struggle, he paid for it with 26 years of imprisonment. John the Baptist was imprisoned for his stern stand for truth and righteousness. His outright condemnation of King Herod's double standard and unfaithfulness, King Herod put him in prison and by his keep's evil plot, he beheaded the holy man.

Anyone to repent is a big challenge. For a drinking man to change from his habitual drinking that ruins the peace of family and his soul is not an easy task; for a man who robs or misappropriates habitually other's money or property, is a matter of sweet honey. For a person whether lay or religious, to give up thirst for power and position, is a bitter one. For a Christian who spends his time in gossip and calumny and slander, repentance is must.

Liberation is tantamount to individual's repentance. If anyone wants to be free, then such person must repent.

A fish out of water hopes to get into water, a chained dog craves to be unchained, a caged bird flutters for freedom and fresh air, a child in the arms of an abductor laments to get out of the alien's hands, an imprisoned man longs to be freed, an enslaved individual fights for freedom, a sinner groans for freedom and liberated heart and soul. This is the nature of the whole Nature and humankind.

What we are concerned about here is the soul of sinner in the light of Christ's call for repentance: 'It is time up, repent, the Kingdom of God is at hand'.

Here there is an urgency for repentance in the mind of Christ.

What we need is change. Change towards righteousness, change towards peace, change towards reconciliation, change towards discipline, change towards godliness, change towards cleanliness, change towards brotherhood, change towards justice, change towards humanism, change towards greater unity of humankind and in particular sense, change towards greater unity of Christians.

What you want to be, you become when you make effort for it. What you want it to be, it happens when you strive for it. What you think you are and will be, then certainly you will be and you are. If so, when an individual strives for freedom, then he achieves it. This freedom is both external as well as internal.



We need freedom from selfish politicians and disgruntled religious leaders in our country and in our surrounding.

Today's political leaders have only ONE agenda viz: power. For a political party after winning power and position, people in whose name it achieved that power becomes secondary. In our country, service to the society is duped by the selfish and inhuman politicians.

Also quite a large number of religious leaders belonging to every religion in our country have lost the sense of humanity. They are no more men of holiness; they have fallen prey to their inner slaves, namely carnal impulses. I would rather say the political leaders, bureaucrats, businessmen, and common people should keep in their mind the welfare of the others. Compassion and honesty should rule the country.

Let us pray to the Lord Almighty to lead our countrymen. Let us become patriotic not just holding flags, but with 'the feeling' of discipline and sincerity. We do not have to visit US or Europe to appreciate their progress and law abiding nature. But we must bring US and Europe in our midst. India and Indians have great strength to create US and Europe in our midst for which personal WILL is essential. At the same time, Indianness must be retained with Western guts!

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**Fr.J.A.Nathan, EDITOR**



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## **17 Reasons: Pope Francis is the Most Extraordinary Human Being Of 2013**

Pope Francis has been declared Time's *Person Of The Year*. Looking back on 2013, he has done some incredibly progressive things to lead the Church. He was elected Pope just 9 months ago.

### **1. He spoke out against frivolous spending by the Church**

The average set of cardinal's clothes costs as much as \$20,000. In October, Pope Francis urged officials to dress more modestly and to not squander such money. In the same month, he ordered a German bishop to explain how he had spent \$3 million on a marble courtyard.

### **2. He invited a boy with Down Syndrome for a ride in the Pope mobile**



During a general audience, Pope Francis invited Alberto di Tullio, a 17-year-old boy with Downs Syndrome, to ride in his Popemobile while thousands watched.

### **3. He embraced and kissed Vinicio Riva**



November saw Pope Francis embrace Vinicio Riva, a man scarred by a genetic disease. Fighting agonizing pain on a daily basis, such an act restored the faith of a man who says that he is often mocked in public.

#### **4. Denounced the judgment of homosexuals**



Pope Francis has stated several times that the Church has no right to interfere spiritually in the lives of gays and lesbians. Though Francis maintained the right of the Church to express opinions on homosexuality, he believes that Christians should not judge or ridicule.

#### **5. He held a major ceremony at the chapel of a youth prison**



In March, the Pope held a major Holy Week service at Casal del Marmo jail for minors, rather than the Vatican. During the service, the Pope washed and kissed the feet of 12 young offenders to commemorate Jesus' gesture of humility towards his apostles on the night before he died.

#### **6. He urged the protection of the Amazon Rainforest**



During his visit to Brazil, Pope Francis met with natives who have been fighting ranchers and farmers attempting to invade their land. He encouraged that the Amazon be treated as a garden and protected.

### **7. He personally called and consoled a victim of rape**

A 44-year old Argentinian woman, raped by a local policeman, was one of thousands to write a letter to Pope Francis in 2013. The woman was surprised when she later received a phone call from Francis himself--who consoled the woman and told her, "You are not alone."

### **8. He snuck out of the Vatican to feed the homeless**



More recently, it has been discovered that Pope Francis regularly leaves the Vatican at night to feed the homeless. Dressed as an ordinary priest, he joins Archbishop Konrad Krajewski to feed the poor of Rome.

### **9. He auctioned his motorcycle to benefit the homeless**



In October, Francis donated his own Harley Davidson motorcycle to fund a hostel and soup kitchen in Rome

### **10. He acknowledged that atheists can be good people**



Earlier in 2013, Pope Francis spoke out against the common interpretation within the Church that atheists, by nature, are bad people. He stated that, "Atheists should be seen as good people if they do good." After meeting the Pope, the openly atheist president of Uruguay, Jose Mujica, compared Francis to a friendly neighbour.

### **11. He condemned the global financial system**

In May, Francis denounced the global financial system for tyrannizing the poor and turning humans into expendable consumer goods. He believes that, "Money has to serve, not rule!"

### **12. He fought child abuse**

The Catholic Church has been rocked in recent years by allegations and admissions of child abuse by members of the Church. Pope Francis became the first Pope to take effective action against such atrocities. He amended Vatican law to make sexual abuse of children a crime, and he also established a committee to fight abuse.

### **13. He condemned the violence of the Syrian civil war**



In regard to the use of chemical weapons in Syria, Pope Francis asked for peace and declared that, "War, never again. Violence never leads to peace, war leads to war, and violence leads to violence."

### **14. He redirected employee bonuses to charity**



When a new Pope is elected, Vatican employees receive a bonus. Upon his election, the extra money was given directly to charity instead.

### **15. He spoke out against the Church's 'obsession' with abortion, gay marriage and contraception**



In a voice of reason, Francis shocked the Catholic world when he stated that the Church was an unhealthy obsession with abortion, gay marriage, and contraception. He criticized the

Church for putting dogma before love, and for prioritizing moral doctrines over serving the poor and marginalized.

### **16. He called for cooperation between Christians and Muslims**

During his Angelus address, Francis paid respect to the end of Ramadan. He stated that both Christians and Muslims worship the same God, and he hoped that Christians and Muslims would work together to promote mutual respect.

### **17. He took part in a selfie**



In what might be his most progressive feat of all, Pope Francis met with youngsters to be a part of a truly remarkable selfie. He is embracing the present, and he is undoubtedly taking the Church to a more loving and accepting future.



### **A humble request from a crying soul**

Dearest Father Nathan,

As I am deeply worried and with broken heart I am mailing you that is my Auntie whose name is Mrs.X, she is good person and loving person, Lord should forgive her, protect her, guide her path and give her a good health. In that way, I am also a great reason that she began to hate my name so I ask Lord to grant the forgiveness from my auntie. For I need my auntie to forgive me and to accept me. Do please pray for my Auntie that my Lord should change everything and restore her to me. Even pray for her daughter, father and her brother. In your prayers, Lord should show me the way to reach my auntie. Do please pray for my above petition father, this is my humble request..

Thanking you,  
Mr...Y

## PRAYER

Dear Readers (brothers and sisters), please pray for this petitioner that his legitimate desire be fulfilled. Ask the Lord to bless the aunt of Mr. Y. Perhaps he is in a crisis of relationship. He craves for blessings from above that his aunt might accept him. Lord Jesus, you know everyone's heart. Bless and comfort this person and enable his aunt to reconcile with the petitioner. May your precious blood be poured upon him and his aunt. In Jesus' name I ask you Father. Amen.



## CHRISTIAN UNITY OCTAVE 2014, Jan 18-25

UNITY OCTAVE- WEEK FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY | JAN 18 – 25

LET US PRAY FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY ALL OVER THE WORLD.

WE ARE ONE IN CHRIST.

ONE CHRIST THOUGH MANY LEADERS.

ONE BAPTISM THOUGH MANY WAYS OF WORSHIP.

ONE FAITH THOUGH MANY THEOLOGIES.

ONE CHURCH THOUGH MANY DENOMINATIONS.

LET US FEEL ONE IN CHRIST.

LET US NOT INDUCE OTHERS TO EMBRACE OUR DENOMINATION.

LET US NOT BUILD ANIMOSITY AGAINST ANY BELIEVER IN CHRIST.

LET US NOT FEEL JEALOUS ABOUT THE GROWTH OF ANY CHRISTIAN SECT.

LET US NOT CONDEMN ANY CHRISTIAN SECT'S THEOLOGY AND THE WAY OF WORSHIP.

WHO ARE WE TO CONDEMN ANY CHRISTIAN DENOMINATION FOR THEIR STYLE OF FUNCTION?

ALL OF US ARE CALLED TO REACH HEAVEN-CHRIST AND IF SO WHY TO SAY 'THEY HAVE NO LICENCE TO HEAVEN?'

LET US RECOGNIZE AND BE WATCHFUL ABOUT OUR COMMON ENEMY.

EVERY CHRISTIAN IS A MISSIONARY AND ECUMENICAL.



EVERY PRIEST, PASTOR MUST RESPECT AND REGARD EACH ONE'S CALLING TO PREACH THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST.

NO BISHOP OF A CHRISTIAN SECT IS SUPERIOR OVER A BISHOP OF OTHER SECT.

PRESBYTER, EPISCOPUS, FIRST OF ALL, YOU MUST BE SERVANT TO OTHER IN YOUR MINISTRY.

LET US EVANGELIZE NON-BELIEVERS FIRST AND NOT LOOK FOR THE WEAK AND THE ALREADY BAPTISED.

LET US INVITE PRIESTS, PASTORS MUTUALLY TO BREAK THE WORLD OF GOD IN OUR OWN CHURCH AND THEREBY BUILD UP GOODWILL AND FRIENDSHIP AMONG CHRISTIANS OF ALL DENOMINATIONS.

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### WHAT IS CHRISTMAS TO ME? WHAT I FEEL & WHAT I HAVE TO SAY!

**Sneha Fernandes**

We have always worried about the size of our Christmas tree. But in the eyes of children, they are all 30 feet tall. Truly the ingredients of Christmas are gifts and love.

I have experienced in Christmas, all roads lead to our home and since centuries we have kept an appointment with Christmas. Christmas means fellowship, feasting, giving and receiving, a time of good cheer; I feel Christmas is forever, not for just one day but most of the time loving, sharing, giving, are not to put away, like bells and lights and tinsel, in some box upon a shelf. The good you do for others is good you do to yourself.

Our expectation is high especially in Christmas time. We are not content. When we were children we were grateful to those who filled our stockings at Christmas time. Why are we not grateful to God for filling our stockings with legs?



I wish we could put up some of the Christmas spirit in jars and open a jar of it every month. We need to remember, this December that love weighs more than gold. A Christmas candle is a lovely thing; it makes no noise at all, but softly gives itself away. Have we thought to be lovely & give away ourselves for Jesus?

Christmas is not as much about opening our presents as opening our hearts. We feel great - Christmas TV special! How touching to have the meaning of Christmas brought to us by cola, fast food, and beer.... Who'd have ever guessed that product consumption, popular entertainment, and spirituality would mix so harmoniously?

Christmas gift suggestions: To your enemy, forgiveness. To an opponent, tolerance. To a friend, your heart. To a customer, service. To all, charity. To every child, a good example. To yourself, respect. ~Oren Arnold

Christmas joke- The Three Wise Women

You do know what would have happened if it had been three wise WOMEN instead of men, don't you? They would have asked for directions, arrived on time, helped deliver the baby, cleaned the stable, made a casserole, and brought disposable diapers as gifts.

**Sneha Sunil Fernandes**

## GLOBAL NEWS

### Oxford University Has Created a Beautiful High-Res Version of the Gutenberg Bible You Can View Online



One of the most famous and important books in human history is now available for viewing online in high-resolution thanks to archivists at Oxford University and the Vatican Library.

The "Gutenberg Bible" was printed by Johan Gutenberg in the 15th Century and [is thought to be the first book printed using moveable type](#) - a major technological innovation. The book is also considered to be a beautiful example of Gutenberg's expert craftsmanship.

"Produced in 1454 or 1455, the few surviving copies of Gutenberg's Bible remain exemplars of the printer's forethought and craftsmanship; the page dimensions, it is believed, were devised by Gutenberg to echo the golden ratio of Greek aesthetics," according to Open Culture.

Oxford's [copy of the Gutenberg Bible](#) is only one of seven remaining in the world.

## Vatican Shows Off Bones Believed To Be St. Peter's



Italian archbishop Rino Fisichella holds the ashes of Saint Peter before a ceremony at the Vatican, on November 24, 2013.

Bones believed to belong to Saint Peter, one of the founding fathers of the Catholic Church, went on display for the first time Sunday, as Pope Francis held a ceremony to end the "Year of Faith".

Tens of thousands of pilgrims gathered to catch a glimpse of the remains, eight fragments of bone between two and three centimetres (around one inch) long displayed on an ivory bed within a bronze chest on a pedestal in St. Peter's Square.

The chest, given to pope Paul VI in 1971 and usually kept in the tiny chapel of the papal apartments, was decorated with a carving of Peter, who was a fisherman before becoming the Church's first pope, casting his nets into the sea.

The bones have long been the object of controversy between historians and archaeologists: they were first discovered in a 1940 dig next to an ancient monument honouring Saint Peter, but ended up gathering dust in a storage box.

It was not until archaeologist Margherita Guarducci discovered graffiti near the excavated tomb reading "Petros eni", which could mean "Peter is here", that she requested tests on the fragments.

She found they belonged to a robust man who died aged between 60 and 70 and had been buried in a purple, gold-threaded cloth -- enough to convince Paul VI to say in 1968 that Peter's bones had been identified "in a convincing manner."

"Faith, the people of God, have always believed these to be the relics of the apostle Peter, and we continue to venerate them in this way," Rino Fisichella, head of the pontifical council for evangelisation, said in the Vatican's newspaper L'Osservatore Romano.

The ceremony brought to an end the Vatican's "Year of Faith", a Benedict XVI initiative which began on October 11, 2012 to mark the 50th anniversary of the start of the Vatican II Council, which approved key Catholic Church reforms.

The Vatican said the "Year of Faith" had attracted 8.5 million pilgrims to Rome.

COURTESY: AFP.

# **WHATS GOING TO BE 2014 for you?**

## **2013 HAS GONE AWAY... 2014 is born...**

**Fr.J.A.Nathan**

We all have some attachment with years born anew. Some speak of a new year for fortunes, luck, good health, business boosting up, marriage alliance, better relationship, and so on. But do you think all our hopes and aspirations come to be fulfilled by the course of a new year born? No. Some are fulfilled and some are not.

If our aspirations are fulfilled then we attribute to the luck of the year, if not, we blame the year.

Some feel they have luck in even numbers and for some in odd numbers. For example, 2013 must have been challenging and trying for some people while for some it would have been the year of luck and happiness. Only by experience we come to this conclusion. But people who work hard and people who are positive in their thinking and doing, such people succeed in their endeavours whether even number or odd number.

Many people believe in luck.

But often it may go by look and luck. If you look handsome or pretty, your luck is at hand. If you are lucky even if you do not have good looks, you will have fortune and success.

However you don't wait for your looks and luck. But you trust in your look and your 'self being' along with hard work.

There are many people in the world who achieved great laurels by their hard work and self effort.

### **Why can't you be one of them?**

The NDTV has recently selected 25 Indians as Global Living Legends who have contributed to the Indian society in their respective fields. Amartya Sen (Scientist), Amitabh Bachchan (Actor), Shah Rukh Khan (Actor), Venkaraman Ramakrishnan (Noble Laureate and Biologist), Rajnikanth (Actor), CNR Rao (Sceintist), Sachin Tendulkar (Cricketer), AR Rahman (Musician), Anish Kapoor (Sculptor), Leander Paes (Tennis player), YK Hamied (Musician), Zubir Mehta (Music Conductor), Mukesh Ambani (Businessman), Kapil Dev (Cricketer), SH Raza (Artist), Waheeda Rehman (Actress), Indra Nooyi (PepsiCo Chief), Ratan Tata (Industrialist), Fali S Nariman (Former Solicitor General), NR Narayana Moorthy (Infosys Founder and Executive Chairman), Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia, Vikram Seth (Journalist), Dr. Prannoy Roy, MS Swamynathan (Scientist), SS Bhadrinath, Ela Bhatt.

All these individuals, what were they earlier? They must have been like one of us. However, they selected their field of life and mastered it and today they are shining stars. You can be

one shining star too if you select your field of interest and master it untiringly with great thirst to serve our Indian society.

I too could achieve laurels for 5 years in the Vatican Radio in Rome. How did I achieve it? By bribe? By recommendation? No. I achieved that opportunity by my effort and expertise in the language. I studied, had great interest in the language, composed music, wrote songs and articles, read lavishly books in Thamizh... there I was! I was invited to work in the Thamizh section to broadcast programmes in Thamizh. Thanks to God for such a gift.

Start planning your project ahead! Let the year 2014 be a fulfilling year for you and for our society.

## The Story of Karoly Takacs



Joshua Francis



In 1938, Karoly Takacs of the Hungarian Army, was the top pistol shooter in the world. He was expected to win the gold in the 1940 Olympic Games scheduled for Tokyo.

Those expectations vanished one terrible day just months before the Olympics. While training with his army squad, a hand grenade exploded in Takacs' right hand, and Takacs' shooting hand was blown off.

Takacs did the unthinkable; he picked himself up, dusted himself off, and decided to learn how to shoot with his left hand! His reasoning was simple. He simply asked himself, "Why not?"

The 1940 and 1944 Olympics were cancelled because of World War II. It looked like Takacs' Olympic Dream would never have a chance to realize itself. But Takacs kept training and in 1944 he qualified for the London Olympics. At the age of 38, Takacs won the Gold Medal and set a new world record in pistol shooting. Four years later, Takacs won the Gold Medal again at the 1952 Helsinki Olympics. Takacs – a man with the mental toughness to bounce back from anything.

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**Lessons Learnt**

- Don't lose yourself to self-pity. Pick yourself up quickly
- Set yourself a goal and focus on achieving.
- Winning is less about skills, more about attitude.
- Skills can be acquired.
- We all have moments in our lives when we seem so close to glory but suddenly lose everything. When that happens, don't worry about what you've lost. Focus on what you still have.

**Mental Health.....The Optimistic Creed**

Susila Sinnappan

Promise yourself that to be strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.  
 To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.  
 To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.  
 To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.  
 To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and expect only the best.  
 To be enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.  
 To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.  
 To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet, a smile.  
 To be too large to worry, too noble to anger, too strong for fear and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

**Mental Health.....How Much are you Worth?**



**Dominic F. Dixon**

Have you felt belittled or put down? Have you felt that the emotion of feeling belittled was a lie from the devil? Have you relied on your own understanding instead of the wisdom of the Lord? Well, this sounds all too familiar. Let's see how the world's greatest Philosopher and Moral Educator, Jesus de Nazareth handled His issues of self worth.

Then the devil took him (Jesus) to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "He

will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.' Matthew 4:5-6. The Scripture says that the devil took Jesus to the highest point. In this narrative, the devil did not physically take Jesus to the pinnacle, but he drew a mental picture for Jesus.

A rich businessman walked into a posh hotel and saw a beautiful custodian woman cleaning the floors of the hotel on which the rich and the famous trampled upon. The businessman looked at the woman and said, "Woman, I would give you a million dollars, if you would spend the night with me". To this she replied, "Oh, no way sir, I would never do something like that." As the man proceeded to his room, reason came riding on her mind as she thought, "What can I do with a million dollars?" She replied to herself, "I can get outta this town and outta this poverty and have a good life." Having reasoned herself out of dignity, she called out to the man and said, "Sir, I will do it." He said, "Ok; meet me at five in the evening."

At five in the evening, a limousine showed up at the hotel, the businessman took the woman in the car and proceeded to the best beautician in town, then to the most lavish clothing store and then to the most expensive jewellery store and then to a sumptuous dinner. After the meal was over and as they were on their way to the hotel, this time, reason came riding on the businessman's mind. He said to her, "Look, I've been thinking. A million dollars is a lot of money. How about I just give you a hundred dollars instead?" The woman replied, "Sir, what kinda cheap woman do you think I am?" The businessman replied, "You don't have to tell me how much you are worth. I already knew how much you were worth the moment you agreed to spend the night with me."

The story of the woman in the above narration speaks volumes. It speaks on the lack of self worth she had and how she was deceived. Have you been duped by evil schemes where you thought that what was drawn in your mind seemed exciting but you ended up being deceived? This deception happens with the damsel, with the married and with every single human being that is not vigilant.

Dear friend, how much are YOU worth? Is the enemy drawing you false promises of satisfaction with the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh and the pride of life? Don't be deceived by his schemes. He has nothing to offer you, but the destruction of your soul. Walk in the truth and live the truth that you may discern the schemes of the enemy. Matthew Henry said, "The best evidence of our having the truth is our walking in the truth."

The devil tried to place a doubt in the mind of Jesus with the words "If you are the Son of God...", Satan was challenging Christ's credentials. Jesus did not try to prove His credentials to Satan by throwing Himself down or by turning stones into bread, instead, He held on to His identity of being from the Father when He quoted what the Father said of Him: "This is My Son" Mark 9:7.

You are worth every drop of the Blood of Jesus, because He died for you. Carry His word within you. As Jesus relied on God's will and not on things that will perish, He submitted in humility and declared the mighty works of God. He was the Word of God. Mary, the mother of Jesus, carried the word of God, from HER womb, to HIS tomb! She fought a good fight.

**Know your worth.**

The encouragement of the Church through Christ would be for us to live our lives to the fullest, even in the midst of long sufferings. This new year, live in happiness that pleases God through your holy lifestyle as the world is looking to see if Christians truly are happy and holy.



#### **REQUEST FOR YOUR PRAYER AND YOUR SUPPORT**

*Dear Readers, in order to facilitate the senior citizens, physically challenged people and the sick climbing the church steps, we have undertaken a LIFT installation, 3 levels, here at St. Peter's Church, Rustambagh, Behind Manipal Hospital, Old Airport Road, Bangalore – 560 017.*

The work has just begun. Please pray for the success of the work. Along with your prayers, we look forward to your 'BIG' heart. God bless you.

PARISH PRIEST, 080-2526 4343, 09740203056, [arokiavaticannathan@gmail.com](mailto:arokiavaticannathan@gmail.com)



Rev,Fr.Nathan distributed Christmas gifts to the adopted children 15.12.2013





The adopted children honour Fr.Nathan for his generosity to the adopted children



The Bangalore United Christian Forum organized Christmas program at Baldwin Boys' School 7.12.2013



The Methodist Baldwin Boys' School staff performing an excellent piece of fisher women dance at the BUCF's Christmas event



**BUCF stands united singing unity anthem**



**St.Peter's Church(Vde Paul) distributes provision for the adopted families as Christmas gift**