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LOVE

D I V I N E

LOVE

H U M A N



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Editorial..... 

CHRIST-LIKE LOVE



– Rev. Dr. Roger Gaikwad

Since the theme of our annual convention is “Rooted and Established in Love,” the focus of this bulletin is on the subject “Love Divine and Love Human.” Love has its origin in God. In fact 1 John 4:16 asserts, “God is Love.” In other words, love is an inherent, essential character of God. Self-centredness or self obsession is the opposite of love. It is God’s very nature to be in fellowship. One Trinitarian understanding of God very vividly describes this fellowship within the being of God: God is the Lover, the Son is the Beloved, and the Holy Spirit is the Bond of love. The character of love is to be relational, and this relational love always seeks mutual edification or “fecundation.” It is love which leads God to share the joy of being with creation. Thus creation is an expression of the love of God. This selfless God wants every form of creation to bear the nature of God. Human beings, as we understand ourselves to be created in the image of God, have the privileged joyous responsibility of being loving co-workers with God.

However human beings have failed to live up to God’s expectations. The sin of self-centredness and self-aggrandizement has broken relationships of edifying love between humans and God, between humans and humans, and between humans and creation. Yet the God of love has not given up on humans. God’s incarnation on earth, leading to the cross and resurrection, releases fountains of forgiveness, reconciliation, and new creation. All this is love!

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life (John 3:16).

... in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them (2 Cor. 5:19).

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ... (cf. 2 Cor. 5:17-18).

And so we respond to this love of God: We love because God first loved us! (1 John 4:19). So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them (1 John 4:16). Thus we are called to be rooted and grounded in love. Such love has to express itself in love for one another (cf. 1 John 4:11). This however is not an easy exercise. “Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.” (1 Cor. 13:4-7).

Where love is, God is! ■

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GOD'S OFFERING OF THE GIFT OF LOVE

(John 3:16)



– Rev. Dr. H. Vanlabruata
Pastor, E.C.

We've heard it over and over that God is love (1 John 4:8), and that He loves us with an unfailing love (Jeremiah 31: 3; Ephesians 2 : 4). This is how He showed His love for us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. (1 John 4 : 9). He has given us so much to be thankful for. God created the sky, seas, and land for our enjoyment. He created the plants, animals and fish for our use, and He created human beings in His own image. God created all life because of His great love for us, that is a gift!

The greatest gift that God has given to us is LOVE. You may be thinking how can love be a gift from God? We have been offered many spiritual gifts from God but if we don't have love when using the gifts – what good is that to others? We can either accept the gift of love or reject it. When we don't love our neighbor, are we accepting love or rejecting it? When we don't forgive others when they trespass against us, are we accepting love or rejecting it? Love is a gift because it can be denied.

Love is a gift from God because only something as precious and wonderful as God's love can help us to love someone who has wronged us (Matthew 5:38 - 42). Love is a gift from God because only God's love for us can encourage us to love our enemies when they have harmed us. (Matthew 5:43 - 44). We must know and receive God's love for us first before we can love others. Love is not something we are born with, but something we learn through our rebirth and connection with God. In fact we must be born of God to "love" others in the proper way.

Psychologists and counselors agree that one's observable actions of another person, not just his or her spoken or written words, provide the evidence that the person truly loves you. There is no better gift you can give others than sharing your love with others. Realizing the wonderful concept of love and how to receive it for ourselves, is when we understand the importance of loving our neighbor. Love *is* the key for living a righteous, peaceful lifestyle. And you will know that you are a child of God, doing His will in your own life, when you help others to receive God's love for themselves.

We cannot truly love our neighbors if we don't love God and understand His love for us; we must have a growing, personal relationship with Him. The Bible tells us who God is – His personality and character. It details God's desire to have fellowship with the people He created through His coming to earth in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ. The world was created because of love! We can deny this marvelous gift or accept it. To offer one's self is the greatest gift anyone can give. And God did exactly that. He gave the greatest gift of *Himself* and His very best, His own *life*, to show how much He loves us (John 15:13). The apostle John writes, this is how God loved the world: *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whosoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life* (John 3:16).

Accept God's offering of the gift of love and take effort to show LOVE. Love sincerely, hate evil, honor one another, serve the Lord, be faithful in prayer, share with God's people who are in need, practice hospitality (Romans 12:9 - 13). ■

GOD'S WORD TELLS OF HIS LOVE; OUR WORDS TELL HIM OF OUR LOVE.

GOD, THE CULTIVATOR OF LOVE IN OUR LIVES (Ephesians 3:14-19)



- L.T. Jeyachandran

Love is probably the most used (and abused) word in the English language today. On the one hand, it is deified in our movies and vilified in practice; I am quite convinced that the only people who can rescue this great word are those who are followers of Christ. The contents of this passage will help us in the body of Christ, the Church, to lift the word love to an unprecedented height.

The Greek word for love used most often in the New Testament – AGAPE – was employed in classical Greek literature for a few centuries before Christ. When the Jewish translators of the Old Testament into Greek – called THE SEPTUAGINT – were looking for a suitable word to describe the loving-kindness of God – e.g., Jer. 31: 3 – they chose this word as it seemed to express love in the highest form known in the Greek-speaking world. The writers of the New Testament including Paul have followed suit. In so doing, they have impregnated this word with a meaning which the Greeks themselves did not know about!

As we contemplate the passage under consideration, we become aware how Paul is overwhelmed as he thinks of the love of Christ:

- Firstly, Paul recognises that the love of Christ cannot be fathomed without realising that the whole of creation owes its existence and identity to God the Father;
- Secondly, it is only through the riches of the Father, that we are enabled to launch into the amazing adventure of knowing the love of Christ;
- Thirdly, Paul invokes the enablement of the Holy Spirit – he uses two words, strength and power to underline the deep work of the Spirit – so that Christ may dwell in our hearts by faith; we who have come to know Christ realise that although human instruments were involved in bringing us to Christ, they would have been ineffective without the conviction of the Spirit;
- Fourthly, he contradicts himself, in a sense, when he asks us to know the dimensions of the love of Christ – its width, length, height and depth – but he goes on to say that it surpasses knowledge! To know what is unknowable is the apparently self-contradictory task of the Christian!
- Fifthly, as ones who have come to know something of the love of Christ – Gal. 2:20 – that led Him to give Himself to the cruel and shameful death on the cross, we begin to touch the edges of that great love.
- Sixthly, Paul insists that we can get into the task of apprehending the love of Christ only with the help of all the saints – our sisters and brothers in Christ. It is impossible to exhaustively understand the love of Christ as individual believers. I believe that this is an important aspect that is neglected today in our individualistic pursuit of God. Many of the songs that have been composed in recent times are ‘I’ songs – in the first person singular – and we sing them in corporate worship! I can be misunderstood here, but when I glance through the Psalms, they present a beautiful combination of individual and corporate songs of praises to God. Christ’s love for us draws us into love for one another as well and that is what makes it possible for us to attempt to plumb the depths of the love of Christ.

But what is the goal of this exercise? “...that we may be filled to the measure of all the fulness of God”? We can see again that Paul is running out of words to describe what he has in mind. To understand something of what Paul intends, we go to the apostle of love – John. We are all familiar with John 3:16, but do we see that God cannot love us unless there is a love relationship in the being of God? That is indicated by John 17: 24 – the eternal love that exists between the Father and the Son (obviously through the Spirit – Romans 5: 5); John 17: 24 overflows to us as John 3:16. It is obviously that fulness of God that Paul has in view as he tells the Ephesian Church to let God cultivate love in their lives! ■

(Mr. L.T. is an engineer who also worked with Ravi Zacharias International Ministries; he carries on a Bible teaching work out of Pune, Maharashtra.)

A MODEL OF LOVE TO EMULATE

[Philippians 2:1-8]



- K.R. Samuel

Human Love is good, but deadly: We express love every day. Some people express more frequently. Love for spouse, children, friends, pets, books, sports, favorite TV serials and so on. Often, it is an expression of feelings of care for someone or something because they belong to us or considering the situation. In some cases, love expressed was just another word for 'lust', for self-satisfaction. Otherwise 'Love' – expression of care and compassion, is created in us by God. When God breathed life into Adam, he became a living soul – with mind, emotion and heart (Gen.2:7). However, through the deception of Satan, Adam came under the rule of the evil spirit which distorted his mind, emotion and heart (Eph.2:2). Therefore, human love is self-centered and incomplete without receiving the love of God into our lives. Human love will continue to say, 'I love you because'. Beyond that, human love does not work. Such love, though expressed a thousand times, is momentary and for many, it may end in frustration, anger and depression. Yet, many have only such love.

Love of God is Divine:

From Phil. 2:1-8, Paul, while thanking and greatly appreciating the believers in Philippi for their help – financial help and for sending a man like Epaphroditus, brought out a very important 'TRUTH of God' which must be in their inner man – souls. **"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God [Who, although being essentially one with God and in the form of God did not think this equality with God was a thing to be eagerly grasped or retained – Amplified Bible], but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bond servant and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross."** Phil. 2:5-8.

1. **First TRUTH – Jesus Christ is the visible Love of God poured out to all believers.** In Rom. 5:5 it says "Now hope does not disappoint us, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us." The truth is that God's Love abides in all believers through the Holy Spirit. **Do you believe this?**
2. **Second TRUTH – Model of Love shown by Christ on earth:** The model of Love that Christ has shown in this passage is – First, He chose to set aside the right to His glory and power. Secondly, He chose the humble position of a slave. Thirdly, He chose to obey God the Father. With these components or attitude or pattern of thinking in Jesus' love for men, He could live **in victory** against all temptations and death. Divine love is the most essential component for building the body of Christ – the Church. Without Divine love – being selfless, humble and looking for the interest of others (Phil. 2:3-4), we may build church buildings and have members, **but not the Body of Christ**. The point is – we (believers) are called and empowered for this cause. So, we can do it. The devil and his demons are very active in **deceptions** – with threatening and impossible circumstances surrounding us, to make us believe that 'it is not possible' to have such Divine Love. We are not called to accept the circumstances or reality, **but to look to the Truth**. The devil is a defeated force and **we are victorious in Christ**.
3. **Third TRUTH – Believers have to MAKE a CHOICE, whether to follow the 'Model of Love' shown by Christ or choose human love.** In Eph. 2:5, Paul reminded us, that there is a gift called **GRACE** – for which no man can work or pray, to obtain it. **Every spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ has been given to us (Eph. 1:3)**. However, there is another gift given to us that is **FAITH** – trusting in God and obeying His words because we trust Him. **This is the choice a believer has to make**. Jesus **CHOOSE** it. Do you trust God to make the right choice? Make your choice today – the **TRUTH** or the deception. ■

(Mr. Samuel is a former E.C. committee member and is presently the Deputy Gen. Manager, Northern Audit Cell, SIDBI, Lucknow, where he resides along with his wife.)



A HYMN ON LOVE: WHAT WONDROUS LOVE IS THIS, O MY SOUL



– Lalnunzawmi
(Manuni)

*What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul.*

*When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down, O my soul!
When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.*



*Ye winged seraphs fly,
Bear the news, bear the news!
Ye winged seraphs fly bear the news!
Ye winged seraphs fly, like comets through the sky,
Fill vast eternity with the news, with the news!
Fill vast eternity with the news!*

*Ye friends of Zion's King,
Join His praise, join His praise;
Ye friends of Zion's King, join His praise;
Ye friends of Zion's King, with hearts and voices sing,
And strike each tuneful string
In His praise, in His praise!
And strike each tuneful string in His praise!*



*To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing.
To God and to the Lamb who is the Great "I Am".
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing.
While millions join the theme, I will sing.*

*And while from death I'm free,
I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And while from death I'm free, I'll sing on.
And while from death I'm free,
I'll sing and joyful be,
And through eternity
I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And through eternity I'll sing on.*



“What Wondrous Love Is This, O My Soul” is an Anonymous North American Folk Hymn, found in the United Methodist Hymnal No. 292, believed to be written in the early 1800’s, composed by William Walker. This hymn has a long-standing history that is not very well known. The author of this text remains anonymous, but it is known as a Traditional American Folk Song, first published in 1811, to a time and place when hymnals were scarce – when people learnt hymns by singing them again and again and so it repeats and repeats – “What wondrous love is this”. It is known, however, that the tune was discovered by composer William Walker on his journey through the Appalachian region of America, during the second Great Awakening, and its melody derived from a popular English ballad. Today it is a widely known hymn included in hymnals of many Christian denominations.

We have few clues as to the author and composer of this profound hymn of wonder at the love of Christ for all humanity.

This is a commonly sung hymn for Lent and is especially powerful during Good Friday services. Many churches, whether they have a Good Friday service or a Tenabrae (shadows) service, will open with this hymn. Also during this service, the first two lines work as a refrain to be sung after each Scripture reading as the worshipper journeys through and reflects on the last days and hours of Christ.

Another possibility is to again use the first two lines as a refrain sung throughout a reading of Psalm 22, a common Lenten song.

The song’s lyrics express awe at the love of God and are reminiscent of the text of John 3:16. The sentiments in “Wondrous love” are almost identical, sad-sounding and haunting, a hymn which is based on a six tone scale, which gives a plaintive sound.

The hymn is an offering of thanks to Christ for laying aside His crown as King and humbling Himself in the eyes of God. It says that when we are free from the grip of death, we will sing God’s praise throughout eternity. What a wonderful opportunity to be able to praise Christ and praise the wonder of God for eternity, and we owe it all to a love that we cannot fully understand. Since we cannot understand this love, we must ask, what wondrous love is this.

The hymn reminds us that Christ frees us from death – makes it possible for death to be more the opening than the closing of a door. It looks forward to an eternity filled with song – joyful song.

On earth, some of us have good singing voices and others don’t. But in heaven every voice will sing loud and true in honor of the God who blesses us and gives us great joy. Though the tune had been around for many years, it was praised on by rote, and not written down. Walker decided in 1835 that he would change that, and added the hymn to his collection “Southern harmony”. ■

(Mrs. Manuni is the wife of former E.C. Pastor, Rev. Dr. K. Lalrinkima. A homemaker, with a passion for God, she is always ready to serve Him in any way she can.)

EMBRACING GOD’S LOVE FOR US IS THE KEY TO LOVING OTHERS.

SEVEN TYPES OF LOVE



– Joseph V. Renthlei

While philosophical concepts often contrast from culture to culture, the concept of *love* is one that is unique to every individual's experience. The phenomenon that is titled *love* in the English language is frequently equated with other concepts in different traditions which involve feelings such as affection, devotion and compassion; qualities such as loyalty, charity and humility; or actions such as sacrificing, liberating, enduring. If one *googles* the word 'love,' the first description that pops up reads: *a strong feeling of affection*, leaving one with an underwhelming description of the extensive significance that the word truly represents. Human beings have been bestowed with this most precious gift and we are not required to explain or describe it, which is why any attempt to elucidate love will always end up inadequate. However, this does not mean that people have not tried to categorize it. Love, as generally understood, has been classified by philosophers into seven types in accordance with the Greek concept:

1. **Philautia** is the love of oneself and comes in two forms. One is a sort of fake self-love, similar to arrogance or narcissism. By contrast, a healthy Philautia is characterized by self-esteem, confidence, and a commitment to care for ourselves and for others.
2. **Pragma** is a love based on dedication to the greater good. In a pragmatic love, romance and attraction are often set aside in favor of shared goals and compatibilities. Pragma is the kind of deep love and commitment that pushes people to do the right thing.
3. **Ludus** may be said to be the opposite of Pragma – although one can often grow into the other as time and circumstances change. Ludus is a flirtatious and fun form of love. It is defined by playfulness, joy, and a lack of commitment.
4. **Eros** is the type of relationship that is most often associated with the word 'love.' This type of love is characterized by romance, infatuation, and sexual desire. It sometimes consumes a person completely, defying any kind of logic.
5. **Philia** describes the shared sense of warmth with siblings or close friends. It is sincere, platonic, and mutually beneficial. Philia is sometimes considered to be one of the most powerful connection two people can share.
6. **Storge** is the very special kind of love that a parent holds for a child. Like Philia, this type of love is powerful and eternal. However, unlike Philia, it is not a sense of love between equals. Rather, it describes a relationship in which a benefactor cares for an inferior.
7. **Agape** is selfless, sacrificial, unconditional love. It is the highest of the four types of love found in the Bible. Agape perfectly describes the kind of love Jesus Christ has for His Father and for His followers. Agape is the term that defines God's immeasurable, incomparable love for humankind. God gives this love without condition, unreservedly to those who are undeserving and inferior to Himself. Agape love is perfect, unconditional, sacrificial, and pure.

Love is not simply a human concept or characteristic of life; it is the genuine essence of God which flows to us through His great benevolence. In I Cor. 13:13, the Bible tells us that out of three things that will last forever, Love is the greatest. And when one meditates thoroughly upon the Love of God, there comes the realization that it is the only thing that really matters in all of existence. ■

Source : Internet

(Joseph is the son of former E.C. Pastor, Rev. Dr. Vanlalchhuanawma. He has just completed his B.D. from Aizawl Theological College, Durtlang.)

HUMAN RESPONSE TO THE LOVE OF GOD

(John 15:9-10)



- Amenla Imsong

The foundational basis of Christianity is – to love the world and humanity. Love is a virtue which represents human kindness, compassion and affection for the other. It is love that binds people together and also with God. The highest form of love that has been expressed is Jesus’ sacrificial death on the cross which manifests God’s love for human beings. According to the Greek philosophy there are four different kinds of love: familial love (*storge*), friendly love (*phileo*), romantic love (*eros*) and divine love (*agape*). The love that we will be discussing here is the divine love which in Greek is *agape*. Divine love is the basis of the union between Jesus and His followers and the same love is the basis of the union between the Father and the Son. Love is the very basis of relationship. God revealed His love to the world by sending His Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins (John 3:16; 1 John 4:9,10). And in the same way Jesus has loved His followers as the Father has loved Him. Jesus loved humankind and He demonstrated His love by liberating them from the wrath of God by His own death (Rom. 5:8,9). Therefore, those who believe in Him should remain in His love.

Since God has loved us unconditionally, human response to the love of God should be one of obedience to God and to love Him, which should be the core motivation of all Christian ethical responsibility. In response to the love of God, He expects us to love others as He has loved us. Christian love is to be extended even to enemies, not only to fellow believers. God has loved us with no conditions and boundaries and our response to His love is to be expressed through our love towards others. We live in a world where love is defined in terms of gaining materialism, and we have become power seekers. In our struggle to accumulate more wealth and fight for position, humans have lost the true value of loving each other. We tend to ignore the needs of others while being too busy with ourselves. The world today has turned too individualistic that the value of appreciating the other and loving others is replaced with material possessions. But humans as social beings, need the support and love of others. Love cannot be replaced with any other. If it was not for the love of God, we still would have been immersed in our sins and salvation would have been out of the question. God has unconditionally laid down His love for us and the only expectation that He has from us is to abide in His love and love others as He has loved us. Therefore, let us love one another as He has loved us and be an agent of love to those in need.

**I asked God to take away my pride,
And God said “No”.
He said it was not for Him to take away,
but for me to give up.
I asked God to give me happiness
And God said “No”.
He said He gives me blessings,
Happiness is up to me.
I asked God if He loves me,
And God said “Yes”.
He gave me His Only Son who died for me,
And I will be in heaven some day because I believe.
I asked God to help me love others
As much as He loves me;
And God said,
“Ah, you finally have the idea”. ■**

(Miss Amenla is a former E.C. member who actively participated in E.C. ministries and is presently Lecturer, Bethel Bible Institute, Tamil Nadu.)

LOVE IN THE CHURCH

*He who loves God must love his brother also
(1 John 4:21)*



– Malsawmi Jacob

God's commandment all through the Bible has been neatly summed up in two sentences: 1. Love God with your whole being. 2. Love your fellow humans as you love yourself. Short and clear. Not at all difficult to understand. But practising it is quite another matter, right? In fact, it's so hard that we don't want to face it and beat around the bush, finding all sorts of excuses.

This must be why Apostle John put it across so strongly in the epistle: *If someone says "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar (1 Jn. 4:20 NKJV)*. It's fairly easy to claim to love God, to be active in church ministries and to look pious. But truly loving others – especially people we don't like, those who hold drastically different opinions from ours, who go against our notions of right and wrong – that's the real test.

Before we even think about the wider world, let's deal with the topic of relationships within the church family. One main proof of whether we are followers of Christ, as given by the Lord Himself, is loving one another (Jn. 13:35). Which includes learning to get along with one another. This brings to mind lines from an old song: *I know a man who says "Halleluia! God is the centre of my life" / But from Monday to Saturday he's fighting with his wife.*

Quarrels and fights among Christians is odious and gives a bad name to the Lord. It is a sign of carnality, the opposite of spirituality. There can be disagreements and differences of opinion on some subjects, but falling into anger, fight and hatred shows we are not living in obedience to God. Now let's examine some of the causes of quarrels.

"I am right, you are wrong," or, "I am more important than you," is the attitude that comes into play when fights break out. Pride. The very nature of Satan that caused him to rebel. Pride works in many ways. It may lead us to look down on some people for their social status, economic condition, race or community group, level of education, or any number of reasons. God detests such discriminations. The epistle of James deals in detail on the nitty-gritty of relationship among church members, which should not be ignored.

Pride also makes us judgmental and critical of others. The other day, I overheard an elderly sister in our church lambasting a young man for keeping a beard, accusing him of being "worldly." It did not develop into an argument only because the guy was respectful and kept quiet. This sister hates beards, so she decided God hates it too! And she goes around judging others by that standard. Funny? Silly? We may be making equally silly judgments if we don't watch out. The devil is clever. He sneaks into the church in such "holy" garbs to create discord among God's people. Churches have fallen apart over trivial issues.

According to God's Word, *Love is patient and kind; it is not... conceited or proud; ... not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable (1Cor.13:4,5 GNB)*. Humility and gentleness are characteristics of a godly person touched with divine love.

The origin of love is God Himself. He is Love. He loves us more than we can imagine. Through the working of His Spirit we respond to His love. *We love Him because He first loved us (1 Jn. 4:19 NKJV)*. And we can love others because He has put His love into our hearts. Loving God and loving others are two sides of the same coin. The more we love God, the more we will love people. ■

(Mrs. Malsawmi, former active E.C. member, continues to touch and bless many lives through her valuable writing ministry and resides in Bengaluru along with her husband.)

EXEMPLARS OF LOVE IN OUR TIME: YOUTH INSIGHTS ABOUT MOTHER TERESA



- Cecilia Katasi

As a young girl I remember being asked whom I want to be and why, by my teacher; I thought seriously for quite sometime – so many famous singers, actresses or actors, political leaders, etc., went through my mind but at the end of my analysis I wanted to be like Mother Teresa, and surprisingly some of my classmates also wanted to be like her. Her love, and dedication of her life for the poor and sick was the main reason why some of my classmates and I, wanted to be like her. So today I want to draw back the curtain of Mother Teresa's life and retrospect on her life, lived for love for humanity.

Mother Teresa was born on August 26, 1910, in Skopje, the current capital of the Republic of Macedonia. The following day, she was baptized as Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu. Her parents, Nikola and Dranfile Bojaxhiu, were of Albanian descent and were a devout, Catholic family. Her father, an entrepreneur, worked as a construction contractor and a trader of medicines and other goods. When Agnes was only 8 years old, her father suddenly died, after which Agnes became very close to her mother, a pious and compassionate woman who instilled in her daughter a deep commitment to charity. Although by no means wealthy, Drana Bojaxhiu extended an open invitation to the city's destitute to dine with her family. "My child, never eat a single mouthful unless you are sharing it with others," she counseled her daughter.

On May 24, 1937, Agnes took her Final Profession of Vows to a life of poverty, chastity and obedience. As was the custom for Loreto nuns, she took on the title of "Mother" and thus became known as Mother Teresa. She continued to teach at Saint Mary's, and in 1944 became the school's Principal. Through her unfailing commitment to her students' education, she sought to lead them to a life of devotion to Christ. However, on September 10, 1946, Mother Teresa experienced a second calling, the "call within a call" that would forever transform her life. She was riding in a train from Calcutta to the Himalayan foothills for a retreat when she said Christ spoke to her and told her to abandon teaching to work in the slums of Calcutta, aiding the city's poorest and sickest people. In January 1948 she finally received approval to pursue this new calling. That August, donning the blue-and-white sari that she would wear in public for the rest of her life, she left the Loreto convent. After six months of basic medical training, she voyaged for the first time into Calcutta's slums, to aid "the unwanted, the unloved, the uncared for."

She began an open-air school and established a home for the dying destitute in a dilapidated building she convinced the city government to donate to her cause. In October 1950, she won canonical recognition for a new congregation, the Missionaries of Charity, which she founded with only a handful of members. As the ranks of her congregation swelled and donations poured in from around India and across the globe, the scope of Mother Teresa's charitable activities expanded exponentially. Over the course of the 1950s and 1960s, she established a leper colony, an orphanage, a nursing home, a family clinic and a string of mobile health clinics. During these years of rapid growth, the world began to turn its eyes towards Mother Teresa and the work she had started. Numerous awards, beginning with the Indian Padmashri Award in 1962 and notably the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979, honoured her work, while an increasingly interested media began to follow her activities. She received both prizes and attention "for the glory of God and in the name of the poor."

The whole of Mother Teresa's life and labour bore witness to the joy of loving, the greatness and dignity of every human person, the value of little things done faithfully and with love, and the surpassing worth of friendship with God. But there was another heroic side of this great woman that was revealed only after her death. Hidden from all eyes, was her inner life marked by an experience of a deep, painful and abiding feeling of being separated from God, even rejected by Him, along with an ever-increasing longing for His love. She called her inner experience, "the darkness." The "painful night" of her soul, which began around the time she started her work for the poor and continued to the end of her life, led Mother Teresa to an ever more profound union with God.

During the last years of her life, despite increasingly severe health problems, Mother Teresa continued to govern her Society and respond to the needs of the poor and the Church. By 1997, Mother Teresa's Sisters numbered nearly 4,000 members and were established in 610 foundations in 123 countries of the world. On 5 September 1997 Mother Teresa's earthly life came to an end. She was given the honour of a state funeral by the Government of India and her body was buried in the Mother House of the Missionaries of Charity. Her tomb quickly became a place of pilgrimage and prayer for people of all faiths, rich and poor alike. Mother Teresa left a testament of unshakable faith, invincible hope and extraordinary charity. Her response to Jesus' plea, "Come be My light," made her a Missionary of Charity, a "mother to the poor," a symbol of compassion to the world, and a living witness to the love of God.

(Mrs. Cecilia is a former active E.C. member and is presently Assistant Professor, College of Nursing, CIHSR, Dimapur.)

Sunday School Page DRAWING

JESUS LOVES ME THIS I KNOW



- Melody Salam

(Miss Melody is the daughter of missionary Ajitkumar Singh and is studying in Kindergarten Class in the Philippines where her family is presently residing.)

OH HOW I LOVE JESUS



- Avarnaniya Rasaily



(Miss Avarnaniya is the daughter of missionary Jacob Rasaily and is studying in Grade 5 in the Philippines where her family is presently residing.)

E.C. HAPPENINGS

- I. NEW MEMBERS :** The following persons were admitted and welcomed as members of E.C. :
- 1) Mr. Alfred Kemah Jaryan on 13/8/17
 - 2) Mr. R.K. Manajit Singh on 24/9/17
 - 3) Mr. Jeremiya Narzary on 15/10/17
- II. DEDICATION :** Baby Chishutmi, s/o Mrs. & Mr. Yangkahao Shatsang, was dedicated on 28/5/17 by Rev. Dr. Roger Gaikwad during the Sunday morning Worship Service.
- III. ELECTION OF YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE :** On 20/8/17, the E.C. General Body unanimously elected **Mr. Jaison Joshy** as the new Youth Representative to the E.C. Committee, in place of Mr. Rajiv Limboo, who had resigned.
- IV. YOUTH WORSHIP TEAM :** The E.C. Youth have started leading the Congregation in Worship through songs, from 9:30 a.m. every Sunday morning, since 3/9/17.
- V. YOUTH OUTING TO PASTOR'S PLACE :** On 8/10/17 the E.C. Youth went to Pastor's residence at Aizawl Theological College (ATC), Durtlang. They had an enjoyable and meaningful time – practising songs, a time of prayer and also a delicious lunch.
- VI. WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP (W.F.) :** The ladies were thankful to God that they could conduct their yearly fellowship at Sis. Madawngi's house on 17/9/17. It was a wonderful and meaningful fellowship and was a blessing to Sis. Madawngi and the ladies as well.
- VII. GUEST PREACHERS :** The following were the Preachers from outside the State:
- 1) Mr. Lalruatlina on 11/6/17 (CONCERN, New Delhi).
 - 2) Mr. Binu Varghese on 20/8/17 (Interserve, India).
 - 3) Mr. L.T. Jeyachandran on 24/9/17 (Involved with Bible Teaching work, Pune).
- VIII. VISITING MEMBERS :** The Congregation was happy to meet the following members who are at present outside Mizoram – (1) Ms. Diya Sabu (2) Mrs. Janet Bajaj (3) Mr. Daniel Bajaj.
- IX. PASSING AWAY OF BELOVED FORMER E.C. PASTOR :** The Congregation was deeply saddened to hear of the passing away of Rev. Lalpianga (85 years), our former Pastor, on 13/8/17 in Aizawl. His funeral was conducted on the same day and the service was held in the Republic Veng Presbyterian Church. *(See page 14 for details).*

OBITUARY



Rev. Lalpianga
(6.7.1932 – 13.8.2017)

Rev. Lalpianga was born on 6th July 1932 in Puallawi Village to Mr. Zatawna (L) and Mrs. Hrangchhungi (L). He was the second of eight children born to his parents.

In the year 1945 he joined Sailulak Primary School and studied upto class III. He moved to Sialhawk Middle School and completed class VI in the year 1949. Thereafter, in the year 1951 he went to Imphal and continued his education with the money he earned from working in a hotel as water carrier. Due to his financial constraints he could not complete Matric, and in the year 1955 joined as teacher in Teikhang Middle School and passed Matric as a Teacher candidate in 1958. He joined as LDC in the Mizoram Government, and pursued his education by attending night college. In the year 1965 he passed B.A. He served in different departments under Government of Mizoram and was also promoted as UDC.

On 15.10.1965 he married Lalthahmingthangi of Mualpheng village in Mission Veng church. He had two sons and one daughter and nine grandchildren.

He left the Government job and joined the Mizoram Synod as Accountant in the Synod Office in 1967. Thereafter, he joined United Theological College, Bangalore and passed B.D. in the year 1971 and was appointed as Lecturer in the Theological College. In 1972 he was appointed as Pro. Pastor and joined as Pastor in Champhai Pastorate. In the year 1974 he joined as Asst. Secretary in Ramthar Board and looked after the Cachar Assembly from 1974 - 1986 and held the post of Ramthar Board Secretary from 1986-1990. In the year 1991 he was Moderator Elect and also lecturer in Missionary Training Centre. In 1992 he became the Synod Moderator. From 1993 to 1994 he was the Pastor looking after the Mission Veng Pastorate. In the year 1995 he retired from active service in the Synod and in the same year was entrusted to look after the English Congregation church as Pastor, till the end of 1996. During his entire service, he solemnized 98 weddings and baptized 532 persons.

In the year 2010 he developed diabetes. He avoided going out and was looked after at home. The last time he attended church service was during the Presbytery and Synod conference in the year 2016.

On 3rd August 2017 he was admitted to the Synod Hospital, Durtlang. His condition deteriorated and he was put in the ICU. Despite the best efforts of the doctors and nurses, he breathed his last at 6.55am on 13.8.2017. His funeral was on the same day and the service was held in the Reublic Veng Presbyterian Church.

He is remembered fondly by the English Congregation as a prayerful and humble servant of God. We give thanks to God for his life.

Youth Fellowship



Leading Praise & Worship



Youth Group Outing to ATC
(8/9/17)



Remember your Creator in
the days of your youth,
before the days of trouble
come and the years
approach when you will say,
"I find no pleasure in
them"....
Ecclesiastes 12:1



Special Number by YWAM
(13/8/17)



Special Number by SWEET MELODY
(3/9/17)



Women's Annual House Fellowship at Sister Madawngi's place (17/9/17)

Welcoming of New Members



Mr. Alfred Kemah Jaryan (13/8/17)



Mr. Manajit Singh (24/9/17)



Mr. Jeremiya Narzary (15/10/17)

**Father's Day
(18/6/2017)**



Welcoming of New members (9/7/2017)



Mr. Justin Jose

Mr. Forward Iswari

Mr. Ritu Raj



**Farewell to RIPANS Students
Ms. Lalkhawngaihzuali & Ms. Lalthazuali
(30/7/2017)**

Johnny



JOHN GEORGE SAMUEL (JOHNY)



Lavi Joseph

Hailing from Kerala, Dr. George Samuel and his wife Elizabeth, were believing Christians and came from godly families. They put Christ first in their lives and sought to honour and glorify Him in everything.

Their first son, John George Samuel (Johny) was born on 21st January 1970 and faced severe health challenges right from his birth. Initially the doctors were unable to properly diagnose his condition. He was too sick to be kept at home and had to be hospitalized for long periods of time.

He needed constant medical attention for his respiratory problems. Cyanosis (the patient becomes breathless and blue due to lack of oxygen supply to the brain) is a life and death struggle that became part of Johny's life. During such an attack, those who looked after Johny would hold his head below the chest level and hit hard on his back to bring out the thick fluid blocking his air passage. Then they sucked it out with a suction pump and gave him oxygen. He could not take in food through his mouth and had to be tube-fed. Through all these struggles, Johny's parents and close relatives prayerfully depended on their faithful God. In Johny's own words he "ate and breathed in an atmosphere of prayer and praise."

When he was nearly 3 years old, Johny's little brother Sherry was born, much to Johny's delight. But Sherry had the same illness as Johny. Sadly, he fell ill with bronchial pneumonia and passed away on the way to the hospital when he was just two months old. God's amazing peace and comfort sustained the family. At 4½ years, Johny started his schooling from L.K.G at the Mar Thoma Residential School. The Principal, teachers and classmates were very kind and looked after him well understanding his health problems. Johny fell seriously ill at age 11 and was rushed to hospital, unconscious. Many tests were done and a child specialist finally diagnosed Johny's problem as Mucoviscidosis also known as Cystic Fibrosis, a very rare, incurable disease. In spite of the sterile condition at home Johny faced respiratory problems and very painful diarrhoea.

In the midst of all this, Dr. George was away on frequent trips abroad in connection with his work as a scientist. Johny had a younger sister Annie, a normal, healthy child and a younger brother Ronnie, who also had cystic fibrosis but in milder form. The specialists said that Johny would not reach the age of 19. Johny and family believed that **what happened through them was more important than what happened to them**. Elizabeth gave all her time and efforts to care for her 2 sick sons and though others helped, she was the one who best knew how to help them in their difficulties and struggles. She fell sick and was diagnosed with a cyst in one ovary, and the other ovary and uterus were infected. The family experienced God's timely faithfulness, when Elizabeth was in hospital. Johny attended classes till Class X as and when he could, along with Ronnie, and after that started the Accelerated Christian Education (ACE) course and thoroughly enjoyed it. Johny developed cracks of the skin under his feet, especially below his left toe which soon became ulcerated and began to stink. Surgery was needed. Later, he had two amputations on his left leg. Johny and family praised God through the storm, knowing that it would cease as the Lord was with them.

Annie and Ronnie were very helpful to him. Ronnie was a great help and inspiration to his family, and had a great sense of humour. He always prayed for God's will to be done. Johny had problems getting used to the artificial leg. He had an almost fatal attack of cyanosis during a bout of viral fever and the hot water bags placed on his chest and back caused burns that had to be treated. Ronnie also fell very sick around the same time but recovered. As Elizabeth was also sick, most of the care for the boys fell on Annie. But they were grateful for doctors, nurses, relatives and others who helped them day and night. Elizabeth's condition worsened and she was diagnosed with Polymyositis, a weakness and paralysis of the muscles that left her bedridden. She chose to be happy despite her numerous problems. On 26.11.1998 she went to be with her Saviour at the age of 56. Johny and Ronnie received the news with amazing peace, knowing that she was free from all suffering and that God had called her home. In August 1999, Ronnie became sick and his condition worsened until he passed away on 7th September 1999. Johny missed his precious brother and wept, but again God strengthened him.

Johny died peacefully in his sleep on 16.11.2002. The previous night he called his father, sister, brother-in-law and home nurse to his bedside and asked them to forgive him for any way he might have hurt them. Then he embraced and kissed them. After his father concluded the family prayer, he went to bed. Shortly before 3am Johny passed away. Johny was careful to use his time well and complete his goals for each day, as he knew from the very beginning that he might die any moment. He wrote a note with the names of all who had helped him throughout his life, thanking them and bidding farewell. He wanted it to be read out at his funeral, though he did not know when he would die. Johny experienced God's strength and power to bear these unimaginable tragedies and confidently declared that this power was available to all. ■

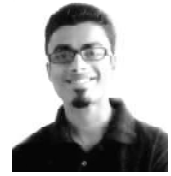
Sources: *Johny... Impossible but for God* by Johny (John George Samuel); *Despite Adversities* by George Samuel.

(Miss Lavi is always willing and available to use her talents to glorify God and be a blessing to others.)

Bible Puzzle

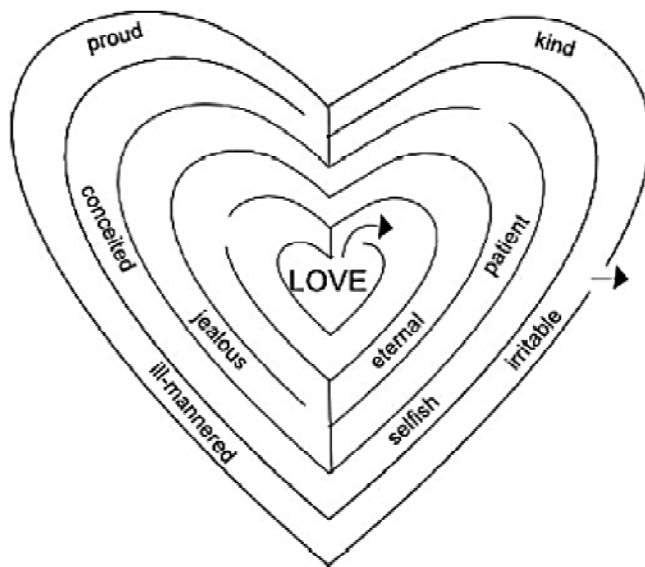
Love Maze

(From the Net)



– Contributed by
Jaison Joshy

- 1 Corinthians 13 is called the love chapter because its words describe how to show love to others. Some of these words are in this maze.
- Draw a path through the maze from the centre to the right side. **Some** of the words will be crossed out by the line you draw.
- If a word is **not crossed** out, write it in the “LOVE IS” list.
- If a word is **crossed** out, write it in the “LOVE IS NOT” list.



LOVE IS

LOVE IS NOT

How will you show love in these ways?

(Mr. Jaison has been part of E.C. for a long time and after completing M.Tech in Computer Science, he is now working as Guest Lecturer in Mizoram University.)

ATTENTION!
 The English Congregation meets every Sunday for Worship at 10 a.m. in the English Congregation Church building, within the Synod Office compound, at Mission Veng.
ALL ARE WELCOME!

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