

The Ecumenical Family

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No. 61

**He must
INCREASE**

B U T i M U S T

DECREASE

John 3:30

CHECK IT OUT...

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Editorial..... 



Rev. Dr. Roger Gaikwad

HE MUST INCREASE BUT I MUST DECREASE

As we reflect upon this theme in this bulletin, and as we prepare our hearts for the annual convention, I would like to place before us a few illustrations of this theme in the lives of servants of God.

George Muller (1805–1898) was an English evangelist and philanthropist. With nothing but his faith in Jesus Christ, he set upon himself the task of establishing orphanages for providing care and education for thousands of orphans. When a man asked George Mueller the secret of his service, Mueller responded: “There was a day when I died, *utterly died*; died to George Mueller, his opinions, preferences, tastes, and will; died to the world, its approval or censure; died to the approval or blame even of my brethren and friends; and since then I have studied to show myself approved only to God.”

Samuel Logan Brengle (1860–1936) was a Commissioner in The Salvation Army and a leading author, teacher and preacher on the doctrine of Holiness. He was once introduced as the, “Great Dr. Brengle.” He later wrote in his diary, “If I appear great in their eyes, the Lord is most graciously helping me to see how absolutely nothing I am without Him, and helping me to keep little in my own eyes. He does use me. But I am so concerned that He uses me and that it is not of me the work is done. The axe cannot boast of the trees it has cut down. It could do nothing but for the woodsman. He made it, he sharpened it, and he used it. The moment he throws it aside, it becomes only old iron. O, that I may never lose sight of this.”

James Hudson Taylor (1832-1905) was a British missionary to China and founder of the China Inland Mission. Taylor spent 51 years in China. Hudson Taylor was scheduled to speak at a large church in Melbourne, Australia. The moderator of the service introduced the missionary in eloquent and glowing terms. He told the large congregation all that Taylor had accomplished in China, and then presented him as “our illustrious guest.” Taylor stood quietly for a moment, and then opened his message by saying, “Dear friends, I am the little servant of an illustrious Master.”

William Carey (1761–1834) was a missionary, a Baptist minister, translator, social reformer and cultural anthropologist who founded the Serampore College, the first degree-awarding university in India. Among those who visited Dr. Carey, the missionary, in his last illness was Alexander Duff, the Scottish missionary. On one occasion he spent some time talking chiefly about Carey’s missionary life, until the dying man whispered, “Pray.” Duff knelt down and prayed and then said “Goodbye.”

As he passed from the room, he thought he heard a feeble voice pronouncing his name, and turning, found that he was recalled. He stepped back accordingly, and this is what he heard, spoken with gracious solemnity: “Mr. Duff, you have been speaking about Dr. Carey! Dr. Carey! When I am gone say nothing about Dr. Carey—speak about Dr. Carey’s *Saviour*.”

May we be inspired to follow the examples of these servants of God, who like John the Baptist asserted: He must increase but I must decrease!■

(Rev. Dr. Roger Gaikwad is presently the Director, Theological Education, Mission and Evangelism, Diocese of North East India, Church of North India and resides in Guwahati along with his wife. He was also the first Pastor of the English Congregation.)

“HE MUST INCREASE, BUT I MUST DECREASE”**Reflections on John 3:30**

Rev. Dr. H. Vanlalruata
Pastor, E.C.

Charles Spurgeon once said: “*Humility is to make a right estimate of one’s self.*” We all recognize that humility is one of the great Christian virtues, being the opposite of pride, but where does humility come from and why is it so hard to attain? Part of the answer can be found in the final testimony and words of John the Baptist recorded in John 3:22-30.

This passage occurs immediately after Jesus’ conversation with Nicodemus. During that conversation, Jesus told Nicodemus that he needed to be born again and of course Jesus said the most famous verse in the Bible, John 3:16.

After that conversation Jesus and His disciples traveled about 50 miles to an area called Salim. It was located along the Jordan River and this is the only recording we have of Jesus baptizing people. John the Baptist was at the same place, baptizing people on the other side of the Jordan River. An argument developed between John’s disciples and certain Jews. We aren’t certain what it was about, but the end result was that John’s disciples came back to John and questioned him about what Jesus was doing.

John explains to his disciples that he is not the Christ, but he was sent to come ahead of the Christ. John’s task was to bring Israel, the bride, and Jesus, the bridegroom, together. Now that this job was complete, John was happy to fade into the background. So it was not with envy or bitterness that John said, “He must increase and I must decrease.” John would have said it with joy. Not with anger.

True Humility comes in the heart of John. His response to his disciples shows true humility.

- * True Humility recognizes that God is Sovereign. (verse 27).
- * True Humility demonstrates a True Biblical Self-Awareness. (verse 28)
- * True Humility recognizes that the Lord Jesus Christ is Above All. (verse 29)
- * True Humility experiences JOY in leading others to Jesus Christ. (verse 29b) Real joy comes from saying: “Here am I; use me.”
- * True Humility Exults in Christ’s Exaltation (verse 30). Humility willingly gives Christ “center-stage” in all things.

The beauty of Christ increasing in our lives, is the way we live our lives, it is the way we experience life, and it is the way others will see how we live life. When we have Christ increasing, our soul will be more satisfied, even in the midst of pain and suffering, trials and tribulations. We will experience greater joy, greater love, greater peace and greater grace. Others will look at us and marvel at how our spirit is so good. Not that we are no longer sinners, that is a daily occurrence, but others will see how can defeat those who are against us. They will be witnesses to our ability to destroy evil with good, to defeat temptation and to overcome the pain of living life.

Paul said, “for when I am weak then I am strong” (II Cor.12:10). It makes no sense at times, but when we are weak and recognize it, then we can rely on only one thing, and that is the power of Jesus. AMEN.■

(Pastor Vanlalruata is also Professor, Christian Counselling, in the Aizawl Theological College, Durtlang.)

Music Page

HYMN : LORD, I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN IN MY HEART



“Lord, I want to be a Christian” is an African American spiritual. I first heard this song in my childhood from my father, way back in the late sixties. He had started a male voice choir then, and they used to sing songs like this and “Swing low, sweet chariot”, “I’ve got shoes, you’ve got shoes, all God’s children got shoes” “Gospel train/ Get on board”! It brings back hazy memories of our stay in a house that was called “Donbok Cottage” if I remember rightly.



Lalzawmliani Kayina

Wikipedia says of the song “It was likely composed in 1750s Virginia by enslaved African-American persons exposed to the teaching of evangelist Samuel Davis. The music and lyrics were first printed in the 1907 Folk Songs of the American Negro, edited by Frederick Work.” The lyrics go like this:

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart.



Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart.

Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart.



The story is that a black slave (Hanover, Virginia, 1756) came to the evangelist saying, “I come to you, sir, that you may tell me some good things concerning Jesus Christ and my duty to God, for I am resolved not to live anymore as I have done...Lord (Sir), I want to be a Christian”

This is indeed a touching story and it is a witness to the work of the Holy Spirit in a man’s heart, bringing conviction and true repentance which resulted from the faithful preaching of the Word. With true repentance comes the desire to live a life that is pleasing to the Lord.

Being a Christian in our/my heart is what you/I are/am called to be. The Bible says “...man looks at the outward appearance but the Lord looks at the heart”. (1 Samuel 16:7b).

We have heard stories of “Christian” slave owners whose conduct towards their slaves were cruel and harsh. Could this be the reason the song speaks of wanting to be a Christian “in my heart”? The song writer is probably hurt and dismayed by this brand of Christianity which was just a profession of the lips but lacked the inner purity, compassion and integrity that one would expect of a disciple of Jesus Christ. The Bible has harsh words to say about such people - “For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ, whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things” (Philippians 3:18,19).



Today, this song reminds me of the challenge of living as a “heart” Christian, one who values and pursues love, holiness and Christlikeness above everything. In a world where your “worth” is measured by outward beauty, intellect, achievements, bank balance, social position, online “followers” or popularity, it’s so easy to get distracted and influenced by the sheer immensity of this wave of narcissism. I have to remind myself that my worth is not in what I own or in what people think of me but my worth is in what God thinks of me. Isaiah 66:2 says, “This is the one I will esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit, who trembles at My word.” (Berean Study Bible)

God is looking for people who are humble and contrite in heart before Him. People who are in awe of Him and revere Him. May you and I be found to be such, by His grace and for His glory. ■

References: 1) Albert Stoutamire (1972), *Music of the Old South: Colony to Confederacy* 2) Fred Daniel Gealy; Austin Cole Lovelace; Carlton R. Young (1970), *Companion to the Hymnal: A Handbook to the 1964 Methodist Hymnal* 3) Frederick Jerome Work (1907), *Folk Songs of the American Negro*

(Dr. Zawmi is a former member of E.C. and taught in the E.C. Sunday school for a while. She along with her husband are with ELIC in China and are supported by E.C. with prayer and finance.)

OBITUARY

Rev. R. Lianbuanga was born in Sialuk village, to Pastor Liandova and Mrs. Phailuti. He was the seventh of nine children.

He started his education in Phuldungsei village while his father was serving as Pastor there and he passed his matriculation examination from Mizo High School. He passed his IA examination from Gauhati University, and passed B.A. Economics Honours from Shillong. Then he passed his B.D. from Serampore University in the year 1967, and M.Th in Christian Education from Georgia, USA in 1974.



Rev. R. Lianbuanga
(31.01.1940 – 03.10.2019)

on 31st January 1940 in Sialuk (L) and Mrs. Phailuti (L). He was born to his parents.

Phuldungsei village while his father was serving as Pastor there and he passed his matriculation examination from Mizo High School. He passed his IA examination from Gauhati University, and passed B.A. St. Edmunds College, B.D. from Serampore University in the year 1967, and M.Th in Christian Education from Georgia, USA in 1974.

He served as Pro Pastor in Dawrpui Pastorate during 1968 – 69 and also taught in Aizawl Theological College (ATC), at the same time. He served as hostel Superintendent and Lecturer in ATC till 1972, when he went to USA to pursue his M.Th course. In the year 1974 he completed M.Th and returned from the USA, after which he joined as Pastor in the Dawrpui Pastorate till 1985 and while he was there he looked after the Chanmari Pastorate also. From May 1986 he served as Missionary in Papua New Guinea, till 1989 when he was selected as Synod Executive Secretary and he served as such till 1991. **He took charge as Pastor of English Congregation (E.C.) in the month of June 1989 and served till the early part of 1990. During his brief tenure as Pastor, E.C., he did his best to get acquainted with the members and served the Congregation faithfully. His wife supported him in the ministry.** From 1992 to 1995 he served in the Shillong Pastorate. From 1996 to 1998 he served as Field Secretary, Delhi. From 1999 to 2000 he served as Pastor in the Chanmari Presbyterian Church.

On 7th May 1970 he married Malsawmi, d/o. P.C. Sapnela (L) and they were blessed with two sons and one daughter and later with thirteen grandchildren.

In the later part of the year 2011 he started suffering from Alzheimer’s disease and in the year 2014 he developed heart problem too. On 31st August 2019 he was admitted in the ICU at Civil Hospital. His condition gradually deteriorated and he went to be with the Lord at 12.30pm on 3rd October 2019. The funeral service was held at 1.00 pm on 4th October 2019 in the Mission Venghlang Church and he was buried on the same day. ■

“HAVING THE MINDSET OF JESUS”

Reflections on Philippians 2:5



“In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus”

A mindset is a collection of thoughts and beliefs that make up mental attitude, habit or disposition. It determines how a person perceives and responds to events, circumstances and situations. *As a man thinks in his heart, so is he. (Proverbs 23:7)*

There are two kinds of mindsets described in Scripture (Romans 8:6-7), a carnal mindset and a spiritual mindset. A carnal mind is identified as being hostile toward God and set on the things of the flesh. It brings with it a spiritual deadness and eternal doom. A spiritual mindset is in subjection to God’s will. It leads to eternal life and a life of peace.

Having a spiritual mindset is a result of being indwelt by the Holy Spirit, and is attained through faith at the moment of salvation. However, believers must be aware of allowing themselves to adopt a worldly mindset.

Jesus’ mindset reflects spiritual values. Hence, Apostle Paul challenges believers to emulate Jesus in their thoughts and actions. Christ is our role model. He came in human form to live an exemplary life. The passage Philippians 2:1-11 demonstrates some spiritual principles to live by as individuals and in our relationships.

Unity in mind and purpose (Philippians 2:2)

Believing the same things agreeable to the mind of God brings unity in mind and purpose. We can promote unity by agreeing with each other wholeheartedly, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose.

Humility and esteeming others (Philippians 2:3-4)

Apostle Paul knew that there needed to be an environment of encouragement and love, for believers to work together in complete harmony. He instructs them not do anything out of selfish ambition, but in humility value others above themselves. In addition, he urges them not to pursue personal interests, but to have an earnest concern for others. This is contrary to worldly principles that promote competition, self-centeredness and personal success.

Sacrifice (Philippians 2:6)

Though Jesus was God, He did not think of equality as something to cling to. Instead, He gave up divine privileges and came down to earth as a ransom for our sins. If we want to be like Jesus, we should be willing to give up things we value for the sake of others.

Willingness to be a servant (Philippians 2:7)

Jesus took the form of a servant. He did not come to be served, but to serve. Are we willing to do whatever it takes to serve?

Obedience and Submission (Philippians 2:8)

Jesus was submissive to God. He was willing to humble Himself in obedience even to the point of death. On the contrary, human tendency has a desire to be in control and let others submit. How much are we willing to submit?

Suffering (Philippians 2:8)

Jesus humbled Himself in obedience even to death on a cross. He was willing to suffer and go through difficulties so we could inherit eternal life. How much are we willing to suffer or be inconvenienced for the sake of the gospel or for the sake of others?

We can learn to be more like Christ by continuing to grow in the way we think and act. As we submit ourselves, He will continue to transform us and accomplish His will in us and through us. ■

Sources: <http://sourcesofinsight.com/what-is-mindset/>

(Mrs. Anne is a former member of E.C., currently residing in Bengaluru along with her family. She is a Homemaker and is involved in Christian ministry as well.)

“DENY YOURSELF, TAKE UP YOUR CROSS AND FOLLOW ME”

Reflections on Matthew 16:24

“Then Jesus told his disciples, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.’” ESV



- Jacob Rasaily

Introduction

During my Seminary years in the Philippines, one of the moments that I have enjoyed is in “Eat All You Can” Restaurant, where we just pay a designated amount once, and choose our preferences to feast on more than thirty varieties of food from the buffet. In most of our homes today, Netflix lavishes on us our individual preferences to choose shows and movies as we like. We have showrooms and malls to fill our carts with multiple preferences. However, following Christ is not like, “Eat all you can” restaurant, Netflix, malls or showrooms, it is self-denial where our “*preferences*” have nothing to do with it.

Jesus knew the temporal, self-gratifying and self-fulfilling, pursuits of His disciples, so He was preparing them by making it clear that His kingdom is not about worldly riches, honour and pleasure but of suffering and persecution in His name. Therefore, He links His own suffering, death and even resurrection from *Matthew 16:21-23* with *Verse 24* of “*Self-denial and Cross*”.

Matthew 16:24, consists of three commands for those who would like to follow Jesus Christ: *First*, He must deny himself. *Second*, He must take up his cross. And *third*, He must follow Him.

First, “He must deny himself”

To explain the central idea of taking up the cross, Jesus mentions the first command which is to, “deny yourself”. To deny yourself means to say “no” to yourself for the sake of following Him. Indeed, saying “no” to self is hard. In this high-tech and digitalized world, even I have a hard time saying “no” to my WhatsApp, Facebook and YouTube and email notifications, which tend to replace God in several instances. And sometimes it is hard to say “no” to the food that is appealing yet conflicting to own health. So, self-denial is the primary step to take up our cross.

Second, “He must take up his cross”

However, self-denial is not enough, but it helps prepare to take up one’s cross. I am sure that the disciples’ minds were blown-up, when Jesus said that they must take up their cross. Because in those days, the cross was the symbol of great suffering and shame, representing the most painful death, hanging on nails for hours, bleeding to death, naked in public for everyone to see. It is a metaphorical illustration for us today, which clearly summons us to take the cross of self-denial, pain, suffering and persecution as we follow Christ, “*No choices, no preferences.*” Jesus said, “*And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.*” (Matthew 10:38).

Third, “and follow me”

Another aspect of taking up of the cross is “*to follow*” in verse 24. It means a lifestyle. A lifestyle of self-denial and taking up the cross daily. To follow Jesus is to make the daily decision of devoting ourselves to Christ. But why do we want to deny ourselves, take up the cross and follow Christ? Verse 25 gives us the reason why. “*For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.*” The Lord is saying that whoever lives only to save his earthly, physical life, his ease and comfort and acceptance by the world, will lose his opportunity for the abundant life. But whoever is willing to give up his earthly, worldly life and to suffer and die, if necessary, for Christ’s sake, will find the abundant life.

Conclusion

Unfortunately, today we choose the kind of worship service that best suits our motives. We prefer to hear the kind of sermon that does not point to sin, repentance, self-denial, pain, suffering, sacrifice etc. So, as followers of Christ, instead of pursuing a lifestyle motivated by personal preferences and expectations, Christ has called us to follow HIM as *self-denying, cross-carrying* believers and *follow Him* in order to find the *abundant life* in Jesus Christ. ■

[Mr. Jacob is a missionary with India Campus Crusade for Christ (ICCC), and is pioneering CCC ministry in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh, along with his family.]

“IT’S NO LONGER I WHO LIVE, BUT CHRIST WHO LIVES IN ME”

Reflections on Galatians 2:20

Galatians 2:20 says, “It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me.”



Nelson Andrews

“I am crucified with Christ.” The meaning of crucifixion is not suffering but termination. However, most of us have the wrong understanding—that to take up the cross is to suffer. The cross referred to in the Bible is not for us to suffer but for us to be terminated.

John 19:15 – “But they cried out, “Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify Him!”

“Crucify Him,” the Jews pointed to the Lord Jesus who was standing before Pilate. What they meant was, “Get rid of Him.” Their purpose for putting Jesus on the cross was not that He would suffer but that they would get rid of Him.

The meaning of “I am crucified with Christ” is that in Christ I have been terminated together with Him. Whether I am good or bad, moral or immoral, I have been terminated. Whether I hate or love others, I have been terminated.

Every time we speak about abiding in the Lord, we think that this refers to being blameless, to sinless perfection. We think that to abide in the Lord is to be a perfect person. Actually this is not so. To abide in the Lord means that in all things, it is not you who are doing and living, but it is the Lord who is doing and living in and through you. In my life I have had many experiences, but what I have experienced the most is that when we Christians do not live by the Lord but by ourselves, that is the most dangerous moment. Any time we live by ourselves, we may feel very good and that we do not have any problems, but actually this is the most dangerous time.

I often say that we can never hate those whom we did not once love. We would not bother to hate the people on the streets whom we do not know and who are not related to us.

In like manner, those who have the worst temper are not those who easily lose their temper. Those who are in the habit of losing their temper do not readily go into a rage. Rather, it is those who are very gentle, live mostly like lambs, who explode with anger and become altogether uncontrollable.

When we are dead to Self and Christ lives in and through us, we are reminded constantly of the day we were terminated. I call that moment the “ZING moment” of our lives – the day we committed ourselves at His feet.

Just like a plant – the seed has to die to metamorphosis into a plant – if fed well, bears good flowers and fruit. So being TERMINATED in Christ is to let His LIGHT radiate in and through our lives and then we become fruitful for His kingdom.

In short **“It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.”** ■

Youth Page

BEWARE OF CREATING A SELFIE CHRISTIANITY!

In this highly interconnected age of social media, we find a growing number of people taking selfies and sharing them. For relevant reasons or not, one thing for certain is we live in an increasingly self-promoting culture.



Though we live in one of the most prosperous times in human history, we find growing cases of depression, anxiety and low self-esteem. We are looking to carve out our own identities, striving for approval. But isn't our identity to be in Christ and our approval confirmed by His cross? - Isak L. Tochwang

We now can say there is more to prosperity than wealth, being educated or having large social circles. We feed our bodies and minds well, but do we factor in the quality/consistency of our Spiritual food? When we live out our purpose and are certain of our identity, we can know true joy despite our circumstances.

We are created in the image of Yahweh but the "fall" causes us to stray from what we were made for. In order to find our own true selves, we need to let go of who we pretend to be and take hold of God.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES: Genesis 32:22-31, Genesis 25:21-26, Luke 9:25, Matthew 20:16, Exodus 3:14-15

Just as Jacob wrestled with his family, with God, and with himself to find himself, we wrestle in the conflict between who we think we're supposed to be and who we really are.

ME FIRST IS MISERABLE: Jacob had a me-first mentality and we live in a me-first culture, in which we all subconsciously strive for self. Jesus asked in Luke 9, "What good is it to gain the whole world and lose your very self?" We all grasp at things like status and security, but in the process of grabbing at stuff, we run the risk of losing our very selves.

GOD CANNOT BLESS WHO YOU PRETEND TO BE: When Jacob was younger, he tricked his father into giving him the blessing that was meant for his older brother. He got exactly what he wanted, but he never got to enjoy it.

God cannot bless who we pretend to be. We don't fool God with our disguises, and the blessings we get when we pretend are not even real blessings that we can fully enjoy for ourselves.

CHANGE IS CONFLICTING: Jacob was 97 years old when he wrestled with God. Having conned his way through life, this was his turning point. Jacob had finally gotten a hold of God, the only One who could truly bless him, and he wouldn't let go.

The first key to finding our very selves is to make the decision not to let go of God. God is the only One who can truly bless us.

When God asked his name, Jacob answered truthfully. He didn't pretend to be someone else, as he had in the past.

The second key to finding our very selves is to admit who we really are. All God wants is for us to come to Him as we are. Then He gives us a new name, a new identity in Christ.

However, even after Jacob's name had been changed, the Bible continues to call him both Jacob and Israel.

This is because change is conflicting, and it's a process.

In Exodus 3, God told Moses that He is the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. He didn't say Israel, He said Jacob. He wanted to be known as the God of the guy who was a deceiver. ■


Sunday School Page

Into my heart, into my heart,
 Come into my heart Lord Jesus,
 Come in today, come in to stay,
 Come into my heart Lord Jesus.



Daniel Salam

Master Daniel is the son of E.C. Missionaries, Mr. Ajitkumar & Mrs. Thaba, and studies in Class VI, Great Commission Higher Secondary School, Naga United Village, Dimapur.

He must
INCREASE
 but  must
DECREASE



Jed Lawma

John 3:16

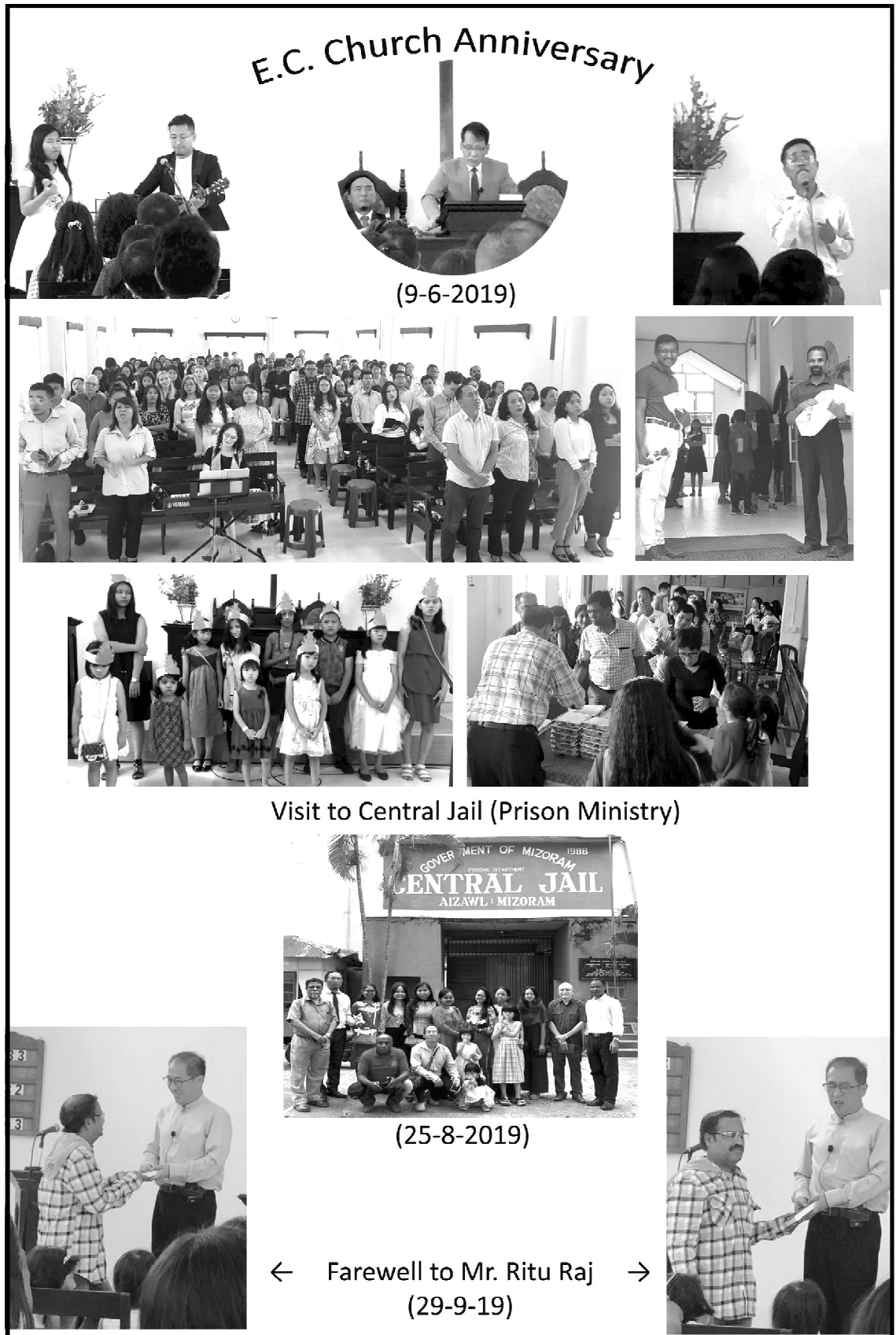
Master Jed is the son of former E.C. members, Mr. Tlanthianglima & Mrs. Anne. He studies in Class VIII in Bengaluru and is presently being home-schooled.

JOY, JOY
 Surely it must be
 JESUS first,
 Yourself last,
 Others in between!



Gideon Lalmuanawma

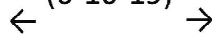
Master Gideon is the son of former E.C. Pastor, Rev. Dr. Lalrinkima & Mrs. Lalnunzawmi and studies in Class III, All Saint's Diocesan Higher Secondary School, Shillong.



Women's Fellowship - Annual House Fellowship at Sis. Madawngi's home, Saron Veng (15-9-19)



Baptism of Baby Lea Zorini Rodriguez, daughter of Mrs. & Mr. Felipe Rodriguez (6-10-19)



Women's Fellowship Retreat (8-10-19)



E.C. HAPPENINGS!

- I. **PENTECOST SUNDAY CUM 41st ANNIVERSARY (9/6/19)** : The Preacher for this year's Thanksgiving Anniversary Service was **Rev. Zosangliana Colney**, Chairman, Mizoram Public Service Commission. There were special numbers by different groups and individuals. The annual report was read out by the Secretary. After the Worship Service a fellowship thanksgiving meal was served for all who attended.
- II. **MEETING OUR FORMER MEMBERS:** The Congregation was really happy to meet up with the following former members - 1) **Ms. Amulyan Lyngdoh** in Aizawl for another program, attended E.C. Anniversary Service on 9.6.19. 2) **Mr. V.O. Ooppai** in Aizawl on a brief visit, attended E.C. Anniversary Service on 9/6/19. 3) **Mr. Asosii Loli** in Aizawl on official work, attended E.C. Worship Service on 16/6/19.
- III. **FATHER'S DAY (16/6/19)** : The E.C. Youth honoured the fathers in E.C. with a short program specially prepared for them.
- IV. **THANKSGIVING** : **Miss Alisha Daniel** secured 9.2 out of 10 in her final exam at National Institute of Technology (NIT), Mizoram.
- V. **ELECTION OF YOUTH AND WOMEN'S REPRESENTATIVES (28/7/19)** : The General Body met and unanimously elected **Mr. Rafyle Rhys Snabi** and **Mrs. Salome Rongmei Philip** as Youth Representative and Women's Representative respectively.
- VI. **SUNDAY SCHOOL (S.S.)** : 1) *Singing Competition* was held on 11/8/19 and the judges were **Mrs. Nutei** and **Ms. Mimi**. 2) *Memory Verse Competition* was held on 18/8/19. The children were encouraged to study and recite as many verses as they could.
- VII. **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP(W.F.):** 1) *Annual House F'ship* was held at **Sister Laldawngliani's (Madawngi)** home on 15/9/19. The ladies were warmly received by the host family and it was a blessed time of worship, sharing from God's Word, prayer, followed by refreshments provided by the host family. 2) *Annual Retreat* was held on 8/10/19 in the house of Staff workers of Campus Crusade for Christ (CCC), Aizawl. There was a time of anointed worship, two sessions of sharing from God's Word, lunch time, group activities and a prayer session. It was a very enjoyable, blessed and refreshing time for all who attended.
- VIII. **FAREWELL:** The Congregation bid farewell to the following members - 1) **Mr. Lincoln Gnanadas**, In- charge of Census Department, Mizoram, left Aizawl on 2/8/19 on transfer to Puducherry. A Bible was handed over to him, as a farewell gift from the Congregation. 2) **Mr. Ritu Raj**, Conservator of Forest, Mizoram, left Aizawl on transfer to Dehra Dun. On 29/9/19, he was presented with a Bible as a farewell gift, and was prayed for by Rev. Kim Sang Soo. Mr. Ritu gave a brief farewell speech too.
- IX. **NEW MEMBERS:** The following persons were welcomed into the Congregation – **On 16/6/19** – 1) **Mr. Thangboi Haokip** along with his son. **On 8/9/19** – 2) **Mr. Dinesh Parsai** and 3) wife **Mrs. Manju Rai**, 4) **Ms. Rose Mary**, 5) **Lt. Col. Kishore Kumar Dalpati**, 6) **Mrs. Lily Lalchhanhimi Dalpati** and their children **Master Dakshin Lalhruaizela Dalpati** and **Miss Esther Lalrinchani Dalpati**.
- X. **BAPTISM (6/10/19)** : **Baby Lea Zorini Rodriguez**, D/o. Mrs. Zomawii and Mr. Felipe Rodriguez, was baptized during the Morning Worship Service, by E.C. Pastor, Rev. Dr. H. Vanlalruata.
- XI. **PRAYER REQUEST : BOARD EXAMS** - Let us pray for –
 1. **Master Samson Badding** – Class XII
 2. **Miss Nadia Bajaj** – Class X
- XII. **HOMEGOING OF FORMER E.C. PASTOR** : The Congregation was saddened by the news of the passing away of **Rev. R. Lianbuanga** on 3/10/19. He is survived by his wife, two married sons and one married daughter. (See page 6 for details). ■

Dorsey

**DORSEY ROSS**

Lavi Joseph

Dorsey Ross was born to Earl and Caroline Anna Ross on January 16th, 1977. He had a rare disease, Apert Syndrome, which affects the face and hands, and also other parts of the body, either at birth or later. Such people often have a cleft palate, learn at a slower rate and sweat a lot during the night. Baby Dorsey's forehead was pushed out, his eyes and nose were pushed back into his head and his fingers and toes were stuck together. Since he did not have a soft spot or skull opening, doctors told his parents that he would eventually become brain dead and said the best option was to put him in an institution. His parents chose to trust God to help and guide them and took him home. They encouraged him in every way and passed on their deep faith in God, to Dorsey. In his book 'Overcomer', Dorsey narrates his own experiences and points his readers to a real, genuine faith in Christ.

From age five, Dorsey attended the Henry Viscardi School for the disabled. Among other difficulties he faced there, was that of seeing several of his friends and others pass away due to their different special needs, over the years, and wondering if he would be next. But he had a spirit of adventure, wanted to try out everything, including outdoor and indoor games, and was not one to give up in defeat and fall into the enemy's trap. Dorsey liked sports. He liked doing track events in the Olympics because it reminded him that he had to continue to run the race of life.

He gave his heart to Christ at an altar call one Sunday when he was thirteen years old. Dorsey had many struggles in his life, but through it all, he chose to trust God more. He believed that God had a purpose and plan for his life, though he did not understand or see it at the time. He wondered many times why God allowed him to go through all the difficulties he did. Reading Romans 8:28, he wondered why anyone would call those difficulties "good". But he strongly affirms that for those who love God and are living in His purpose, God will work out all that they go through, for good.

Dorsey enjoyed his teenage years. As he grew older he liked working with the youth in church, who showed their love and care for him. He later became a youth leader. Dorsey was made fun of by other children. He underwent 68 operations in his life. His fingers had to be separated and the operation resulted in him having nine fingers only. His arms and fingers were short and fat. He was short too. He had a problem of acne on his face. All this embarrassed him, but did not stop him from trying to do things others did and he was determined that nothing would stop him from accomplishing God's purpose and plan for his life.

Dorsey graduated from the Henry Viscardi School in June 1996 and joined the Queensborough Community College and then the University of Valley Forge. Due to his disabilities, he took nine years to finish college, with his never-say-die attitude. Graduating from Queensborough Community College in May 2000, with an associates degree in Liberal Arts, he stepped out in faith and went to Bible College, believing that it was what God had for him.

One of the most difficult things in his life was the death of his mother, due to a stroke in 2002, when he was in Bible College. He had always been close to his mother and she had been his biggest supporter, encourager and had always been there for him. Though grief-stricken after his beloved mother's death, he pressed on and finished his studies in Bible college. He knew that quitting was not something she would approve of. In May 2005, he got his B.A. in Youth Ministry, and in May 2006 he got his minister's license from the New York District of the Assemblies of God.

God provided friends and people around him who helped him step into God's call on his life as an evangelist. He travelled and spoke in churches in and outside New York. Dorsey was ordained as a Pastor in 2009. His speaking ministry continued and God opened up many doors for him - he was interviewed on TBN (Trinity Broadcasting Network, the Christian television network), gave his testimony, wrote his story for a Christian magazine and also travels around America and continues to trust God for all that He has for his future. From his own experiences, he encourages others to trust God, and persevere and not give up, no matter what, and to know that God has planned out each person's life and future, since the day they were born. His own deep faith and trust in God made him press on, believing God had a plan and purpose for his life, which He would reveal only after he took the first step. God's will for him was more important to him than his own. ■

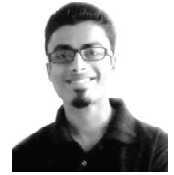
Source: *OVERCOMER, Discovering God's Purpose Against All Odds* by Dorsey Ross

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

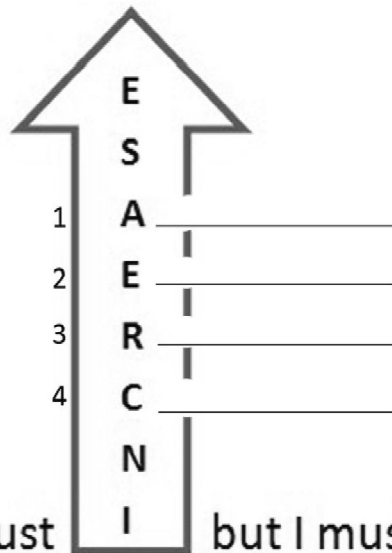
MISSING WORDS SEARCH

Find the missing words in the verses and fill up the blanks in the two arrows:

(Version Used: NKJV)

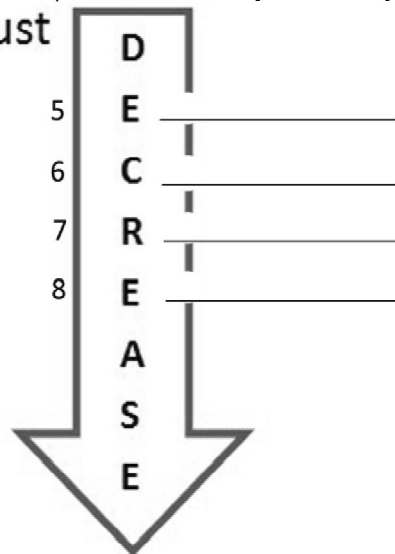


Jaison Joshy



1. "Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is _____ every name,..." [Philippians 2:9]
2. "Let them _____ Him also in the assembly of the people, And praise Him in the company of the elders." [Psalm 107:32]
3. "Let us be glad and _____ and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." [Revelation 19:7]
4. "And do not be _____ to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." [Romans 12:2]

5. "If your right _____ causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell." [Matthew 5:29]
6. "But what things were gain to me, these I have _____ loss for Christ." [Philippians 3:7]
7. "But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I _____ from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God." [Acts 20:24]
8. "If you _____ chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?" [Hebrews 12:7]



(Mr. Jaison was the Youth Representative in the E.C committee and is now working as a Technical Operations Associate at Amazon in Chennai.)

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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