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ഇരുൾ നിറഞ്ഞ വനത്തിലെ ചെറിയ ദീപനാളം പോലെയാണ് ദൈവത്തിന്റെ ഇടപെടൽ. അടുത്ത വഴികളിലേക്ക് പ്രകാശം പകരാൻ ആ ദീപനാളത്തിനു കഴിയും. ചുറ്റുമുളളതെല്ലാം കാണാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞി ല്ലെങ്കിലും ജീവിതവഴികാട്ടിയായി നാളം മുന്നിലുണ്ടായിരിക്കും.

ഇന്ന് ജീവിതത്തെക്കുറിച്ച് സ്വപ്നങ്ങളുണ്ട്. ആഗ്രഹങ്ങളും പരിശ്രമങ്ങളും ഉണ്ട്. പക്ഷെ പരാജയം സംഭവിച്ചാൽ പരാജിതന്റെ ഭാണ്ഡവു മേറി ദൈവത്തെ പഴിപറഞ്ഞ് ജീവിതം തളളി നീക്കുന്നവരുണ്ട്.

കപ്പലിൽ ജോലി ചെയ്യുന്ന മനുഷ്യൻ അവധിക്ക് വീട്ടിൽ വന്ന് തിരിച്ച് പോകുമ്പോൾ കൊച്ചുമകൻ ശാഠ്യം പിടിക്കും കൂടെ പോകാൻ. അവസാനം അപ്പൻ സമ്മതിച്ചു. എന്നാൽ ആ പ്രാവശ്യം വളരെ ശക്തമായ കാറ്റുമൂലം കപ്പൽ തിരമാലകളിൽ തട്ടി നശിച്ചു. മകൻ അപ്പനെ മുറുകെ കെട്ടി പിടിച്ചു കിടന്നു. എന്നാൽ തിരമാലകളിൽ തട്ടി രണ്ടു പേരും എതിർദിശകളിലേക്ക് ഒഴുകിപോയി. അവസാനം അപ്പൻമാത്രം കരക്കെത്തിയപ്പോൾ മകനെ തേടി അപ്പൻ അലഞ്ഞു. വളരെ ദൂരെ ഒരു പാറക്കെട്ടിൽ, പാറകെട്ടിനെ കെട്ടിപിടിച്ച് കണ്ടു. തട്ടിയുണർത്തി മകനെ മാറോട് ചേർത്ത് പിടിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് ചോദിച്ചു. മകനെങ്ങനെ ഭയം കൂടാതെ ഇവിടെയെത്തി ചേർന്നു. മകൻ പറഞ്ഞു ഞാൻ എന്റെ അപ്പനെ മുറുകെ പിടിച്ചു കിടക്കു കയല്ലേ, പിന്നെന്തിനാ പേടിക്കുന്നേ! ആ മകന്റെ വിശ്വാസം പാറപോലെ ഉറപ്പുളളതായിരുന്നു. എന്തൊക്കെ സംഭവിച്ചാലും എന്റെ അപ്പനെ ഞാൻ മുറുകെ പിടിച്ചു കിടക്കുമെന്ന്. ഈ വിശ്വാസവും ബോധ്യവുമാണ് രക്ഷയിലേക്ക് നയിച്ചത്.

ദൈവം നമ്മിൽ നിന്നും അകലുമ്പോഴല്ല മറിച്ച് നാം ദൈവത്തിൽ നിന്നും അകലുമ്പോഴാണ് അനുഗ്രഹം നഷ്ടമാകുന്നത്.



## Kalyan Lantern

YOUR WORD IS A LAMP TO MY FEET AND A LIGHT TO MY PATH

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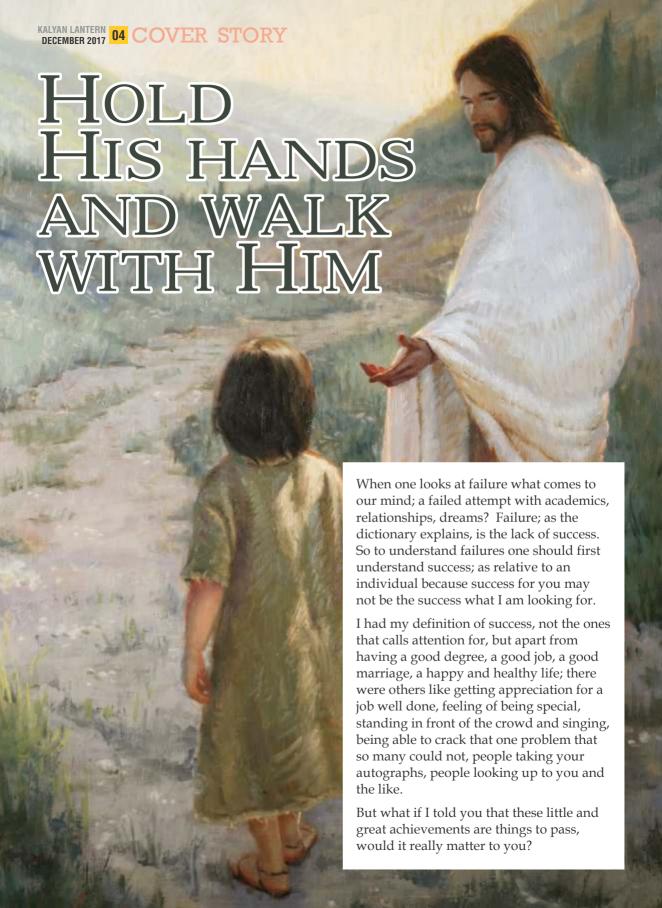
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I have many dreams, I still have them, but somewhere God has shown me that all these in the end don't matter at all. Now that does not mean I stop dreaming like most of us do when we start failing, but it only means that the definition of success for me now has changed, for now I know, that in God's eyes I am already a masterpiece, intricately woven inside my mother's womb (Psalm 139:13) and this makes me feel appreciated, feel precious, feel accomplished and happy in every situation. I do not deny that there is no sadness, that there are no failures in this world but now I look at failure differently, my perspective has changed.

I have failed in class, in subjects, in friendships, in achievements and in duties, I have failed my relatives through my words and actions, I have even failed God. But God in His kind mercy took all my shortcomings and failings, took all my weaknesses and carried it all for me. So when I failed and was mocked at, when I could not reach the goals set by others, or me I could not look into the eyes of God, He has been there for me waiting for me to look up to Him. Because my health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak, but God remains the strength of my heart; He is mine forever (Psalms 73:26)

I say this with conviction because more than the life on this earth, I look forward to an eternal life in Jesus and knowing what Jesus did for me when life itself seemed to slip away from me was the greatest achievement in my life, cause God's love never fails you (Lam 3:22), and when you believe and put your trust in the Lord, he never disappoints you (Romans 10:11-12).

I remember the day when the only one I had beside me was Christ. On a hospital bed, with excruciating pain, all lights dim and nobody to hear my cry, it was only God who reminded me of His suffering on the cross and that, what I was bearing was nothing in front of what God had bore for me. He constantly reminds us that his grace is all we need in times of trials, for when we are weak we are strong (2 Cor 12:9-10). Its difficult to take pleasure in failures, in

hardships and troubled times but St. Paul reminds us again and again through the Scriptures that in everything God works for the good of those who love Him, whom He has called according to His plan [Rom 8:28].

Therefore believe that God's grace is with you always and that the failures don't define you. Allow God to define you and like St. Paul may



I have failed in class, in subjects, in friendships, in achievements and in duties, I have failed my relatives through my words and actions, I have even failed God.

we be able to boldly proclaim, "No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us" [Phil 3:13-14]. Hold His hands and walk with Him



## ON BEING AN AVERAGE



instead of a distinction, you got only 72 marks you felt horrible. People consoled you by saying that, 'it is fine,' 'at least you did not fail,' 'these are average marks which are not bad'.

You were not able to understand what they were trying to tell you. For you, it was equal to failing. I wouldn't blame you for having such a view. In the society where we live, average is not seen as a compliment, but as an incapability. Our society has attached negative connotations to the word.

I mean who wants to be an average, a so-so, when they can be outstanding? This is the tyranny of a culture of binaries. Today everyone is in the race of becoming the best not the worst, of succeeding not failing, of coming first not last.

This idea trickles down to our educational system, where kids are taught to come first, they are told stories about people who are extraordinary. They are taught to avoid failures. Thus the binaries are reinforced!

Every individual is born with a different aptitude and potential. All of us have our own strengths and weaknesses. But today we are obsessed with being the 'exceptional.' Like I said the word average is shown in a very wrong light. Today we give value to our abilities by comparing ourselves to the average because we wrongly assume this will give us valid results. We gain a false sense of accomplishment in knowing we are better than the average, and feel hopeless when we fall below the average. Our self worth is based on the comparisons we make. But this can only turn out to be devastating.

Today the media bombards us with only, the best of the best, the worst of the worst, the funnies jokes, the ugliest pictures, the saddest news. We gain information from only the extremes of the bell curve.

We are shown videos and told stories about 'exceptional' people. But we are never shown the years of practise which goes behind that video, or the number of failed takes to just get the perfect click. We are exposed to only the

finest moment of these people.

Today being 'extraordinary' is seen as the new black. But if everyone was extraordinary, then by definition, none would be extraordinary.

It is time to get a reality check done!

In the real world, the vast majority of us fall within the average range of the bell curve. Even if you are truly exceptional in a particular field, chances are that you will be an average at

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A lot of people are afraid to see themselves as an average because they feel, if they accept being an average, they will never achieve, there will be no scope for development in their life. But one should remember that. ......

something else. Superman does not exist in reality!

A lot of people are afraid to see themselves as an average because they feel, if they accept being an average, they will never achieve, there will be no scope for development in their life. But one should remember that, the people who became exceptional at something, do so not because they believe they are exceptional. They succeed because they are obsessed with

improvement. The obsession stems from the belief that they are not that great at all. That they are an average and that they can do much better.

Daniel Gilbert, in his book 'stumbling on happiness,' provides us with a very interesting insight. He narrates a scenario where, a man wins a huge lottery and he is on cloud nine, on the very same day a man looses his arm and is drowned in his depths of sorrow. But when checked for levels of happiness a year later between these two men, it was found that the happiness of both people were at the same



As you grow up, you will come across lists of heroes, there will be ancient heroes like Hercules and super heroes like Batman on the list. You might feel really low because you don't see yourself on that list.

level. This shows us that, the highs and the lows of our life, over a certain period of time will regress to the mean level.

#### No one stays exceptional for very long.

As you grow up, you will come across lists of heroes, there will be ancient heroes like Hercules and super heroes like Batman on the list. You might feel really low because you don't see yourself on that list.

But what I want you to learn is that, no one is expecting some super hero gifts and powers from you. Today I want you to take a roundabout from our culture which stands only for more success, more achievements. I want you to stand for mediocracy. Not for the merits of pursuing mediocracy, because everyone should work hard to achieve what they want. But I want you to learn to accept the average results, which you might face, despite your efforts.

'I want something just like this!'
With Regards,
Your Older Self





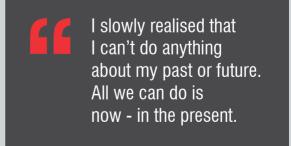


Josy Jose was born and brought up in Nedumkunnam, in Kottayam district of Kerala. He and his younger sister were brought up in the best of Catholic traditions by his devout God-fearing parents. When he was in his 5th standard, he became an altar boy in St. John Baptist Church, Nedumkunnam, his forane church.

It was when he was a student in the 9th standard that tragedy hit him. He slowly started losing his eye sight. He completely lost his eyesight by the age of 17. It is with lot of hope that went with his father to Sankara Nethralaya, Chennai, the best eye hospital in the country. But when Josy heard the doctors there tell his father, that he has an incurable problem and that he will loose his eyesight for ever, his world came crushing down. Josy was

so depressed that he told his father to abandon him somewhere and go home... But his parents held him closer than ever before...

Slowly Josy realised that he has to rebuild his



life all over. He joined the blind school in Calicut. He finished his gained his degree in English literature from Maharaja's college, Ernakulam. He got his B.Ed degree from St. Thomas College, Palai and got his Postgraduate degree in English literature from Maharaja's College, Ernakulam. Few months back he was selected as a probationary officer in Central Bank of India.

When he came for his training in Mumbai he also visited St. Joseph's Church, M.C. Road for his sunday mass along with his friend Ali, who is blind from birth. That is when we got an opportunity to talk to them.



**Students:** What were your feelings when you faced the prospect of blindness?

Josy: I started losing my eyesight slowly and I became complete blind at the age of 17. My initial feelings at that time was, "How would I able to do anything in life?" I was very depressed for a while. It was very difficult initially. My mother's prayers and father's support helped me.

**Students:** How did you finally overcome the situation?

Josy: I slowly realised that I can't do anything about my past or future. All we can do is now in the present. I accepted my situation. Most importantly I felt that wherever I went, whatever the difficulties I faced, God was there, helping me overcome the situation. I believe we have to learn to accept whatever happens-good or bad- in the same spirit. There is always a difference between our dreams and reality. But whatever the situation is, we have to face it, we have to accept it.

**Ali:** After my graduation, I wrote an entrance for JNU and passed it but couldn't go because

of financial difficulties. There came a situation where I couldn't do anything. But then I didn't give up. I decided I will do something and I did my MBA. And God helped me. God then send me this friend Josy who helped and guided me towards the goal of becoming a bank officer. God helps us in various ways if we are determined. I feel that I have reached so far because I decided to fight the circumstances without tears in my eyes.

**Students:** What is your message to the youth who are giving up on life, when they face difficulties?

Josy: The circumstances we are in, are the best opportunities God has given us. Our first step should be to accept the situation we are in. Believe that whatever happened in life is the plan of God. Whatever be the opportunity that is being presented to us, we should do that job in the best possible way. Whatever be the situation, we have to be sincere in what we are doing. Then God surely will open new ways. If we understand this and act, then one day we can stand with our head high.

Ali: God has created us all differently. I believe God is testing us. He tests more the people he loves, to know how much we love Him, even in trying circumstances. Many people has sympathized with me saying blindness is so difficult but I have not heeded to all their sympathy, because I believe that God who created me knows very well to take care of me and guide me to the desired destination and also call me back when his time comes.

Josy: Yes, if good things are God's plan then bad things are also His plan. God will make every circumstance good for us in the long run. We should recognize that there is a plan for everything but we may not know that at that time. I believe it is all pre planned by God.



## ദൈവത്തിന്റെ സ്വന്തം ഹിറോ NIBIN

NIBIN തിരിച്ചും മറിച്ചും ഒരു പോലെ വായിച്ചെടുക്കാം. നിബിൻ ഒരു ഹീറോ ആണ്. നിബിൻ എന്ന പേരിന് Google നൽകുന്ന അർത്ഥവും ഹീറോ എന്ന് തന്നെ. താനേറെ ഇഷ്ടപ്പെടുന്നവരെ തന്റെ സഹനപാത പിൻതുടരാൻ ദൈവം അനുവദിക്കും. ആ പാതയിലൂടെ സധെര്യം വിജയപാതയിലേക്ക് മുന്നേറുകയാണ് നിബിനിപ്പോൾ. അതുകൊണ്ടാണ് നിബിൻ ദൈവത്തിന്റെ സ്വന്തം ഹീറോ ആകുന്നത്.

സാധാരണ കുട്ടികളെപോലെ ഓടിചാടി കളിച്ചും ചിത്രം വരച്ചും ക്രിക്കറ്റ് കളിച്ചും നടന്ന ബാല്യം. കാഴ്ചമങ്ങുന്ന അസുഖം വരികയും പന്ത്രണ്ടാം വയസ്സിൽ കൂനിമേൽ കുരു എന്ന പോലെ ക്രിക്കറ്റ് ബോൾ കണ്ണിൽ അടിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് ഒരു അപകടവും കണ്ണിനു സംഭവിച്ചു. 15 വയസ്സകുമ്പോഴെക്കും കാഴ്ച പൂർണ്ണമായും നഷ്ടമായി. പതിനഞ്ചോളം തന്നെ ഓപ്പറേഷനുകൾ. കാഴ്ച കിട്ടില്ല എന്ന ഉറപ്പ് സഹനങ്ങളെ വലുതാക്കി. പത്താം ക്ലാസ്സോടെ മുഴുവൻ കാഴ്ചയും നഷ്ടമായെങ്കിലും നല്ല മാർക്കോടെ പാസ്റ്റായ നിബിൻ യാത്ര ചെയ്യാൻ.

ഇഷ്ടപ്പെടുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് +2ന് ദൂരെ കോളേജിൽ ചേർന്നു. +1 നു പഠിക്കുമ്പോൾ പങ്കെടുത്ത് സാധാരണ കുട്ടികളുടെ കൂടെ മത്സരിച്ച് ഒന്നാമനായതും വിദ്യാലയത്തെ പ്രതിനിധീകരിച്ച് വയറിംഗ് മത്സരത്തിന് പോയതും അവനു വലിയ കാര്യങ്ങൾ തന്നെ. "**നമ്മൾ** 

ശ്രമിക്കാത്തതുകൊണ്ട് നമുക്കൊന്നും നഷ്ടപ്പെടമുത്" എന്നതാണ് നിബിന്റെ മുദ്രാവാക്യം. കുർബ്ബാനയും പ്രാർത്ഥനയും മുടങ്ങാതിരിക്കാൻ keyboard പഠിച്ച് അൾത്താരയിൽ കയറി. മടുപ്പിക്കുന്ന വേദനകളും അപ്പന്റെ കടങ്ങളുടെ ആധിക്യവും അമ്മയുടെ കരച്ചിലും ആണ് വീണ്ടും വീണ്ടും ശ്രമിക്കാനും അടിയറവു പറയാതിരിക്കാനുമുളള അവന്റെ പ്രേരണ. ഒന്നും തോൽവിയായി കാണാതെ "ദൈവത്തിനു തന്നെ കുറിച്ച് വളരെ വലിയൊരു പദ്ധതി"യുണ്ടെന്ന ബോധ്യം അവനെ തളരാതെ മുന്നോട്ടു പായിക്കുന്നു. ഇപ്പോൾ കോളേജ് ബിരുദം പാസ്സായി. റെയിൽവേ ഉദ്യോഗം നേടിയപ്പോൾ

അവൻ തിരിച്ചറിയുന്നത് തമ്പുരാന്റെ പരിപാലനയെ. അതുകൊണ്ടു തന്നെ ജോലിക്കൊപ്പം BCA പഠിക്കുന്ന നിബിൻ അവന്റെ ജീവിതം അവനു കിട്ടിയ അവസരമായി കണ്ട് online ക്ലാസ്റ്റുകളിലൂടെ മറ്റ് അന്ധർക്ക് അറിവു പ്കരുന്നു. അവർക്ക് സോഫ്ട്വേർ അറിവുകൾ നൽകുന്നു. അത് install ചെയ്തു കൊടുക്കുന്നു. എങ്ങിനെ ഉപയോഗപ്പെടുത്താം എന്ന് പഠിപ്പിക്കുന്നു. ഡിഗ്രിക്കു പഠിക്കുന്ന ഒരു കുട്ടിയും ഒരു പത്താം ക്ലാസ്റ്റുകാരനും ഒരു ബാങ്ക് ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനും ഒക്കെ നിബിന്റെ സഹായത്തോടെ അവരുടെ കുറവുകളെ മറികടന്നു കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. ഒപ്പം നിബിൻ സ്വയം പര്യാപ്തനാണ്. അവൻ തനിയെ ഭക്ഷണം പാകം ചെയ്യുന്നു. അവന്റെ വസ്ത്രങ്ങൾ സ്വയം കഴുകി വൃത്തിയാക്കുന്നു. എന്തിനേറെ ഷേവിംഗ് വരെ സ്വന്തമായി ചെയ്യുന്നു. കാഴ്ച കുറവ് ഒരു കുറവേ അല്ലെന്ന് അവൻ പ്രവൃത്തികൊണ്ട് ഉറക്കെ ഉറക്കെ ഉറക്കെ പ്രഖ്യാപിക്കുന്നു.

അവനെപ്പോലുളള കുട്ടികൾക്കായുളള 'വിദ്യാലയം' അതാണവന്റെ

> സ്വപ്നം. "അസുഖം മാറാനല്ല അതു തരണം ചെയ്യാനുളള കരുത്താണ്" പ്രാർത്ഥിക്കേണ്ടത് എന്ന പറഞ്ഞു കൊടുത്ത അപ്പനാണ് അവന്റെ ബലം. ഒത്തിരി നല്ല സുഹൃത്തുക്കളും അവനുണ്ടെന്ന്

അഭിമാനത്തോടെ അവൻ ഏറ്റു പറയുന്നു. ബൈബിൾ വായന, കീബോർഡ്, വയലിൻ വായന ഇതൊക്കെയാണെന്റെ ശക്തിയെന്നു നിബിൻ പറയുന്നു. അവൻ മുടങ്ങാതെ കൊന്ത ചൊല്ലുന്നു. അവന്റെ പ്രാർത്ഥനയുടെ ശൈലിയും വേറിട്ടതുതന്നെ. "രാവിലെ ഞാൻ ചോദിക്കുന്നു, വൈകുന്നേരം നന്ദിപറയുന്നു". ഇതുവരെ ചോദിച്ചതൊന്നും കിട്ടാതെ പോയിട്ടില്ല. എന്നവൻ ഉറപ്പിച്ചു പറയുന്നു. സജീവമായ പ്രത്യാശ അതാണവന്റെ കരുത്ത്. അതെ അവൻ പേരിനെ അമ്പർത്ഥമാക്കുന്ന

ദൈവത്തിന്റെ സ്വന്തം ഹീറോ...... നിബിൻ!



# Story of SINOY JOSEPH

National Award Winner Musician



I come from a middle class family. My father was a school teacher and mother, a housewife. Right from my childhood days, I used to attend Holy Mass every day. In school, I showed interest in many extra curricular activities like music, classical dance and painting, and my

parents too were very supportive. However, as these pursuits required a lot of money, I couldn't keep pursuing anything beyond a point. I was very depressed at that time. Once, for a school competition, we needed some secured admission at Chetana Sound Academy, Thrissur.

I am really thankful to God as he prepared and nurtured me right from my childhood to my career position as a Sound engineer in the Film

Since then, I took to praying fervently and surrendered my whole life to God. He has always showed me the way and lead me towards the right choice, time and again.



money to buy new clothes and my father saw that I was very sad. He took me to his colleague's house to ask for some money. He asked me to stay outside and went in. I waited for almost forty five minutes in front of his gate and could see that the colleague had not even asked my father to sit. My eyes welled up tears thinking about my father's situation. It was then, on that day that I really understood my family's difficult situation.

Since then, I took to praying fervently and surrendered my whole life to God. He has always showed me the way and lead me towards the right choice, time and again. I wanted to become a bank employee initially but failed to get 4th group during my Pre-degree and then got science in the same college. I then wanted to become a teacher but did not get admission anywhere for my subjects. The same year, I got admission for Electronics Degree. It was then that I got to know about a Sound engineering course, for which I applied and

industry. If I had secured a 4th group admission in my Pre-degree, I would have become an accountant in a bank and would never have been recognized as a National Award Winner. That same colleague of my father delivered a Congratulatory speech while celebrating my National award victory where my father was sitting with me on stage with a lot of pride.

The blessings and the grace of God and Mother Mary have been with me at all times. Just before I was to leave for Mumbai, two nuns came up to meet us. I do not know who they were or from where they came. They asked me to pray this simple prayer everyday, "Abba Pithave, ange thiru-kumarante thiru-rakthathaal enne kazhugi vishudheekarikkyaname, ange parishudhathmavaal enne nirakkyaname (10 times a day).



## Story of Jerin Venad & Cityflo

In 2015, less than 12 months out of college, I set off to build my own company with a few friends. We called the company Cityflo – and built an app for our users to use to buy passes on our buses.

With an investor's support, the company grew very fast in the first 6 months. However, we made a lot of mistakes that first-time businessmen make. To support fast growth, we were losing money daily and had expanded to

I have come to believe that while there will be challenges, the decision to let them affect me is 100% mine. And once I decide that I'm not going to let them disturb me, they become just another problem that I try and solve.

a 30-member team. Soon, the startup investment climate changed – we could not find another investor. Moreover, we faced regulatory trouble, whereinthe BEST wanted to shut down our services claiming direct competition.



#### **Initial feelings of failure**

Following certain complications and financing troubles, we had to reduce our operations from 70 to 5 buses, and reduce our team from 29 to 3 employees. Two members from the cofounding team left the company. Bigger companies entered the market, and customers started moving because the competition was offering cheaper services.

At that moment, it seemed like the end of our company was certain in the next few weeks. We were emotionally drained and had no clue about how we were going to keep Cityflo alive.

#### Thus, we fought back!

We re-evaluated whether Cityflo could become

a big company in the next 5-10 years. The answer was Yes. We knew we had some time left. And in addition to working hard, we knew we would need some sort of a miracle to save the company.

When you have nothing to lose, what do you have to fear? In the next few months, we worked the hardest we had ever worked.

We realized that we had faced a huge setback, and that it could not reversed in a day, or a week, or even a month. It was most important that people who were left in the team were aligned on the company's vision.

We re-negotiated with our vendors. We managed to get customers who were happy paying more because Cityflo offered a better service. We got a small investment from a new investor. Some of our older employees willingly joined us back when we requested them. We focused on a very small niche market that we could cater well. We cut our losses. One week after the other, bus-by-bus, we built back our business to a respectable size.

#### The graph of success

While the company is still not stable, we are better than we were a year back. We still have problems regarding financing, bigger competition & potential regulatory challenges. However, we bring a safe & comfortable office commute to over 1200 people living in Mumbai. I am happy that our customers love our service and Cityflo helps reduce traffic in Mumbai by offering a good mass transit option for office-goers.

#### Thanks to them, who stood with us

The most important thing is to work with a team that believes in the company's vision. I am fortunate to have a great support system in my family and friends. My parish priest has constantly encouraged my pursuit, assuring me that everything was going to work out well eventually.

I have come to believe that while there will be challenges, the decision to let them affect me is 100% mine. And once I decide that I'm not

going to let them disturb me, they become just another problem that I try and solve.



#### God has a plan for me!

I have always believed that a lot of things that happen to us are beyond our control. So, however hard we work, we cannot guarantee that life will work out as we expect it to.

The belief that God has a plan for you – and your part is simply to do your best – has motivated me to just do my job well and leave the rest to Him.



# FAILURE? APPRECIATED!!



"Success is not final, Failure is not fatal; it is the courage to continue that counts"

- Winston Churchill

'Appu' as we fondly call him, is a special child.

It was in late 2005 when I first met this boy named 'Ashwin'. There was something different in his behaviour that drew my attention towards him. He was a specially challenged child, a bit different from my other friends. He used to go around in the crowd, get into random conversations and make others laugh! Many saw him in a different way but he was one happy-go-lucky person for me.

As years passed by we all grew up together, attending mass at church, going for catechism classes and actively participating in church activities. We all grew up to be the youth of our church-some depressed with failures while others facing new challenges. Amidst all this, one thing remained constant and that was Ashwin and his cheerfulness. The aim of the interview was to know how Ashwin perceived success and failure. I realised, to my surprise that Ashwin considers everything as success when he said, "No Failure, Only Win!" Ashwin was always motivated and appreciated for everything he did, as a result of which the word 'failure' does not exist in his life. According to Ashwin, winning is all about the appreciation he receives for the efforts he put in to do something.

He is a dancer. He loved dancing from the age of 2 and is a fan of Michael Jackson. He told

about being appreciated by many choreographers and dance artists. He proudly said that he is the star of his school and he was



According to Ashwin, winning is all about the appreciation he receives for the efforts he put in to do something.

very excited to show me his medals, awards and certificates. He values all his achievements and remembered a dance which was dedicated to him by 'Sumeru Dance Class' on 'Pappu Can Dance'.

Ashwin, very confidently pointed out to his parents as his source of strength and motivation. In a highly competitive world like today, where parents are chasing money without prioritising family time, I feel Ashwin is a lucky boy who has his parents by his side in quality ways.

Along with his parents, Ashwin mentioned his Ammachi (stay-in maid since the last 20 years) and his friend 'ChottaMonu' (Prinay Thomson) as his dearest people in his life.

As I moved forward to the final phase, I asked him about his prayer life to know how much he is connected to God. He said he loves prayer, attending Mass, doing church activities and he is more connected to Mother Mary. If anyone asked him to pray for any sick or injured, he would loudly take the name of the person and pray in front of the Grotto of Mother Mary in church. As a friend I asked him to pray for me, he just smiled back and assured that he would.

Ashwin is not like the majority of us, because when we focus on our failures, Ashwin finds victory in every aspect. When many of us live with handicapped thoughts, Ashwin is happy living with cheerful thoughts.

Along with sharing his positive thoughts and principles, Ashwin also taught me the value of friendship and relationships. How many of us pray for our friends in need? Ashwin taught me to be positive and cheerful and always be grateful. The best this I learnt through this is that "Failure is just a word, when we start appreciating it!"

#### **His Achievements**

Fancy dress competition conducted by air force – 1st price when he was 2yrs old .

2013- Pune talent hunt(with normal competitors) – special jury award

Student of shiamak davar and regularly performs in his group.

Regular dance performance at St. Thomas Church, Wanawadi.

Permanent mahabali at Malayalee Association, Pune.

Permanent Santa Claus at AFMC Carols.

Regular dance performance at Army Paraplegic Center, Pune representing his school.

He is the star of his school

Studied dance at Sumeru Dance School for 2years.





I am Rosemary belonging to a middle class family.

Personally, I never had interest in doing well and my surroundings added to it and all I wanted to do was have fun in life. I wished to live a chilled life and everything should happen magically.

Beginning with studies and then following all else.

Failures had become a part of my life. I became immune to failing in examinations. They never affected me and so I was never motivated to do something about them.

I wasn't a bright student and passing an examination was always possible only by the grace of God. I lived an undisciplined and lethargic life.

It was in my final year of graduation that I

realized that if I didn't do well at that point, I would never be able to support my family. Coming to terms with the fact that this could be the only chance I'd have to perform well in studies, I had to make up my mind.

It was in my final year of graduation that I realized that if I didn't do well at that point, I would never be able to support my family.

Realizing that I was just one month away from my final exams, I decided to start studying. I

scheduled my subjects, my daily time table and my sleeping hours. I studied twelve hours a day, ensuring that I prayed before I began each time. As my exams neared, I studied and prayed harder. I gave my best.

My results were declared two months later. I emerged to be the topper of my college.

In the course of moving from being an utter failure to being a topper, my life had drastically changed. In the process, I became more disciplined, committed and focused in my life. I didn't have an answer to what I would do five years from then, but I had an answer to what I would be doing in one week and that was enough for me to survive.

There is no short way to success, only working hard and smart. Today, I work for a research agency, doing something that I love to do and happy that I have grown as a person and become someone whom I would have not imagined to be otherwise.

In all these times of trials and tribulations, there is one person who closes her eyes and trusts me wholeheartedly, another who looks up to me arduously and yet another who motivates me to do better each day. I have always been advised that whatever I do in my life should be for me to suffer or benefit from. There is no one else to give credit to or blame. All that I am today, I owe to my mother and I couldn't be prouder of the self that I have become today.

I ardently thank God for putting me through this grilling process that let me learn about the real essence of life the hard way. All that I have been through, all the people who stood by me and all that I have today is based on God's design and plan for my life. The might of His power and love has worked wonders in my life which enabled me to rise up like an eagle above the cloud of challenges my life kept throwing my way.







## മൂന്നാം ഗേഹന്താ പ്രാർത്ഥന

മാർ തോമസ് ഇലവനാൽ കല്യാൺ രൂപതയുടെ മെത്രാൻ

'കർത്താവായ ദൈവമേ, സ്വർഗ്ഗീയഗണങ്ങളോടു കൂടെ അങ്ങേയ്ക്ക് ഞങ്ങൾ കൃതജ്ഞത സമർപ്പിക്കുന്നു' എന്നാരംഭിക്കുന്നതാണ് മൂന്നാമത്തെ ഗേഹന്ത. സ്വർഗ്ഗീയഗണങ്ങളോട് ചേർന്നാണ് സമൂഹം ദൈവത്തിന് കൃതജ്ഞതയർപ്പിക്കുന്നതെന്ന് ഈ പ്രാർത്ഥന വ്യക്തമാക്കുന്നു. ഈ പ്രണാമജപത്തിന് രണ്ടു ഭാഗങ്ങളുണ്ട്. സ്ഥാപനവാകൃങ്ങൾക്ക് മുമ്പുളള ഭാഗവും അതിനുശേഷം വരുന്ന ഭാഗവും. ആദ്യ ഭാഗം നെസ്തോറിയസിന്റെ പേരിലുളള മൂന്നാമത്തെ അനാഫൊറയിൽ നിന്ന് എടുത്തിട്ടു ളളതാണ്. രണ്ടാമത്തെ ഭാഗത്ത് കർത്താവിലൂടെ നമുക്ക് ലഭിച്ച രക്ഷാകരകർമ്മത്തിന്റെ ഫലങ്ങളെ അനുസ്മരിക്കുന്നു. ഇവിടെ ആദ്യഭാഗത്തെക്കുറിച്ച്

പിതാവായ ദൈവത്തെ വിളിച്ചപേക്ഷിക്കുന്ന പ്രാർത്ഥനയാണിത്. അതുപോലെ വചനമായ ദൈവപുത്രന്റെ രക്ഷാകരപ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ വിവരിക്കുന്ന കൃതജ്ഞതാസ്തോത്ര പ്രാർത്ഥന യുമാണിത്. വി. ഗ്രന്ഥത്തിൽനിന്നും പ്രത്യേകിച്ച് വി. പൗലോസിന്റെ ലേഖനത്തിൽ നിന്നും എടുത്ത സമ്പന്നമായ ആശയങ്ങൾ ചേർത്തുവച്ച് രൂപപ്പെടുത്തിയ വിശിഷ്ഠമായ പ്രാർത്ഥനയാണ് മുന്നാമത്തെ ഗേഹന്ത എന്നു കാണാം.

വചനമായ ദൈവത്തിന് നാലു വിശേഷണങ്ങളാണ് കൊടുത്തിരിക്കുന്നത്. 'പിതാവിൽ മറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്ന ആത്മജാതൻ' (യോഹ. 1:18) 'സത്തയിൽ പിതാവിനോട് സദൃശ്യൻ', 'അങ്ങയിൽ നിന്നുളള പ്രകാശം', 'അങ്ങയുടെ സത്തയുടെ പ്രതിച്ഛായയായ വചനം' (യോഹ. 1:1-2; കൊളോ. 1:15).

#### പിതാവിന്റെ ഏകജാതൻ

ഇവിടെ കൊടുത്തിരിക്കുന്ന 'ആത്മജാതൻ' എന്ന വിശേഷണം ഈശോയുടെ ഗ്രേഷ്ഠതയും വ്യതിരിക്തതയും വ്യക്തമാക്കുന്നു. ആത്മജാതൻ എന്നതിന് തുല്യമായ 'ഏകജാതൻ' എന്നും നമ്മൾ കാണുന്നുണ്ട്. (യോഹ. 1:14; 3:16, 18). 'അങ്ങയിൽ മറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്ന' എന്ന വിശേഷണം മൂലരൂപത്തോടു ബന്ധപ്പെടുത്തി 'അങ്ങയുടെ മടിത്തട്ടിലിരിക്കുന്നവൻ', 'പിതാവുമായി ഗാഢബന്ധം പുലർത്തുന്നവൻ' എന്നൊക്കെ മനസ്സിലാക്കാം. ഈ ഗാഢബന്ധത്തെക്കുറിച്ച് ഈശോ പറയുന്നു: "ഞാൻ പിതാവിലും പിതാവ് എന്നിലുമാണെന്ന്" (യോഹ. 14:11). പിതാവിനോടുള്ള ഈശോയുടെ സമാനതയാണ് ഇത് വൃക്തമാക്കുന്നത്. ഹെബ്രായലേഖനത്തിൽ കാണുന്നു : "അവൻ അവിടുത്തെ മഹത്വത്തിന്റെ തേജസ്സും സത്തയുടെ പ്രതിച്ചായയുമാണ്" (1:3). അദൃശ്യനായ ദൈവത്തിന്റെ പ്രതിരൂപമാണ് ക്രിസ്തുവെന്ന് വി. പൗലോസ് വിശേഷിപ്പിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. (2 കൊറി. 4:4, കൊളോ. 1:15) ദൈവം ആരായിരിക്കുന്നുവോ അത് ക്രിസ്തുവിലൂടെ വെളിവാക്കപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്നു എന്നാണർത്ഥം. അതുകൊണ്ടുതന്നെ ഈശോ പറയുന്നു : "എന്നെ കാണുന്നവൻ പിതാവിനെ കാണുന്നു". (യോഹ. 14:9)' എന്ന്.

#### പരിപൂർണ്ണമനുഷ്യനായി

തുടർന്ന് വചനമായ ദൈവത്തെ വാഴ്ത്തുവാനുളള കാരണങ്ങൾ അനുസ്മരിക്കുന്നു. വചനമായ ദൈവം മനുഷ്യനായവതരിച്ചതിനെക്കുറിച്ചാണ് ഇവിടെ പ്രതിപാദിക്കുന്നത്. വചനമായ ദൈവം പിതാവിനോടുളള സമാനത നിലനിറുത്തേണ്ട കാര്യമായി പരിഗണിക്കാതെ, തന്നെത്തന്നെ ശൂന്യ നാക്കി ദാസന്റെ രൂപം സ്വീകരിച്ചു. (ഫിലി. 2:6-8). ദൈവത്തോടുളള സമാനത ഉപേക്ഷിച്ച് മനുഷ്യ നോട് സമനായിത്തീർന്നു. ദൈവത്തോടുളള സമാനത സ്വന്തമാക്കാൻ മോഹിച്ചതാണ് ആദത്തിന്റെ അധപതനത്തിന് കാരണമായത്. അധപതിച്ച മനുഷ്യകുലത്തെ രക്ഷിക്കാൻ വന്ന രണ്ടാമത്തെ ആദമായ ഈശോ ഈ 'സമാനത നിലനിറുത്തേണ്ട കാര്യമായി പരിഗണിക്കാതെ' മറച്ചുവയ്ക്കുവാൻ സന്നദ്ധനായി.'

അവിടുന്ന് "പരിപൂർണ്ണമനുഷ്യനായി സ്ത്രീയിൽ നിന്ന് ജാതനായി" (ഗലാ. 4:4). എന്തുകൊണ്ടാണ് കർത്താവ് 'സ്ത്രീയിൽ നിന്ന് ജാതനായി' എന്ന് എടുത്തു പറയുന്നത്. എല്ലാവരും സ്ത്രീയിൽ നിന്നു തന്നെയാണു ജനിക്കുന്നത്. എന്നാൽ ഈശോയുടെ ജനനത്തിൽ പുരുഷന്റെ സഹകരണമില്ല. പ. ആത്മാവിനാൽ സ്ത്രീയിൽ നിന്ന് ജനിച്ചു എന്ന സത്യം അനുസ്മരിപ്പിക്കാനാണ് ഇങ്ങിനെ പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നത്.

#### രക്ഷയടെ സ്മാരകം

വി. പൗലോസ് പറയുന്നപോലെ നിയമത്തിനധീനരായവരെ ഉദ്ധരിക്കാനായി നിയമത്തിന് വിധേയനാവുകയും (ഗലാ. 4:5; 1 കൊറി. 9:20) രക്ഷയുടെ സ്മാരകം ഏർപ്പെടുത്തുകയും ചെയ്തു. (1കൊറി. 11:23–26). 'രക്ഷയുടെ സ്മാരകം' എന്നാണ് വി. കുർബ്ബാനയെ വിശേഷിപ്പിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നത്. പഴയനിയമപെസഹായെ 'സ്മരണ' അഥവാ സ്മാരകം എന്നു വിശേഷിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. (പുറ. 12:17). പഴയ നിയമത്തിലെ ഇസ്രായേലിന്റെ രക്ഷാചരിത്രത്തിന്റെ സ്മരാകമായ പെസഹാ ആണ്ടുതോറും ആചരിക്കുവാൻ ദൈവം ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടതുപോലെ ഈ രഹസ്യവും ദൈവസന്നിധിയിൽ ഞങ്ങൾ അർപ്പിക്കുന്നു എന്നാണ് ഇവിടെ പ്രാർത്ഥിക്കുന്നത്. ദൈവവചനങ്ങൾ കൊണ്ട് രൂപപ്പെടുത്തിയ മനോഹരങ്ങളായ പ്രാർത്ഥനകളാണ് ദൈവാരാധനയിൽ നമ്മൾ ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നത് എന്നുളളതിന് ഉത്തമോദാഹരണമാണ് ഈ ഗേഹന്താപ്രാർത്ഥന.

## **Third Gehantha Prayer**

The third Gehantha prayer begins with these words 'Together with the heavenly hosts we give you thanks'. This prayer makes it clear that it is together with the heavenly group that the community renders worship to God. This prayer has two parts - the first part before and the second part after the words of institution. The first part of the prayer is taken from the third East Syrian anaphora in the name of Nestorius. In the second part of the prayer we commemorate the fruits of redemption in Christ. Here we go through the first part of the prayer.

This prayer is addressed to God the Father. So it is a thanksgiving prayer narrating the redemptive life of Christ the Word, the only begotten Son of God. This prayer is rich with biblical reference especially from the writings of St. Paul.

#### The only begotten Son

The attribute 'God, the offspring' clearly emphasizes the uniqueness and greatness of Christ. Similarly we see Jesus qualified as the only Son of God (Jn. 1:14; 3:16, 18). The attribute, the 'hidden offspring from your bosom' refers to the divine communion with the Father. Hence, Jesus said "I am in the Father and the Father is in me" (In. 14:11). Four attributes are rendered to God the Word: hidden offspring from your bosom (Jn. 1:18); image of your own being; your own likeness; and your splendor (Jn. 1:1-2; Col. 1:15). All these attributes show the equality of Jesus with the Father. We read in the letter to Hebrews: "He reflects the brightness of God's glory and is the exact likeness of God's own being" (1:3) St. Paul qualifies Christ as 'the exact likeness of God' (2 Cor. 4:4; Col. 1:15). This means that Jesus is the

self revelation of God. Hence Jesus said 'whoever sees me sees my Father' (Jn. 14:9).

#### He became a human being

The prayer continues to narrate the motives for praising God the Word. The main reason is that God became man through the mystery of incarnation. Setting aside his equality with the Father, Jesus emptied himself taking the form of a servant (Phil. 2:6-8). In order to become like man he set aside his equality with God. The reason for the fall of Adam was that he wanted to become like God. Jesus the second Adam who came to redeem humankind was ready to hide and set aside his equality with God.

Born of a woman he became a complete human being (Gal. 4:4). Why is it specially mentioned that he was born of a woman as it is the case with regard to everyone. This is to emphasize that the birth of Jesus was by the power of the Holy Spirit with out the co-operation of any man.

#### Memorial of Salvation

As St. Paul says: He subjected himself to the law in order to redeem those were under the law (Gal. 4:5; 1 Cor. 9:20), and established the memorial of our salvation (1 Cor. 11:23-26). Eucharist is qualified as the memorial of our salvation. The Passover in the O.T. was a reminder and a memorial (Ex. 12:14). God exhorted the Israelites to celebrate the Passover in order to remember their redemptive history. So too we remember our redemptive history as we offer this Qurbana. This Gehanta prayer is a good example to understand that many of the liturgical prayers are formulated from biblical references and sources.

## Pope Francis: the poor are our 'passport to paradise' (CNA)



On the 1st World Day for the Poor, Pope Francis said caring for the needy has a saving power, because in them we see the face of Christ, and urged Christians to overcome indifference and seek ways to actively love the poor that they meet.

"In the poor, we find the presence of Jesus, who, though rich, became poor," the Pope said. Because of this, "in their weakness, a saving power is present. And if in the eyes of the world they have little value, they are the ones who open to us the way to heaven."

"They are our passport to paradise," he said, explaining that it is an "evangelical duty" for Christians to care for the poor as our true wealth.

## Pope John Paul I takes step closer to sainthood (catholichearld)

The Congregation for the Causes of the Saints has unanimously voted in favour of the "heroic virtues" of Pope John Paul I, meaning that Pope Francis will now shortly sign a decree declaring him "venerable". Born Albino Luciani, Pope John Paul I reigned for just 33 days before dying suddenly of a heart attack. Before his election, he served as Patriarch of Venice for nine years, and was created a cardinal in 1973 and elected pope in 1978.



#### 10,000 at beatification of Sr Rani Maria (asianews)

About 10,000 people participated in the beatification ceremony of Sr. Rani Maria Vattalil, the Franciscan Poor Clare assassinated in 1995 when she was stabbed 54 times in Indore. The



ceremony took place on November 4 in the courtyard of Indore's St. Paul Higher Secondary School and was chaired by Card. Angelo Amato, Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. Card. Baselios Cleemis, President of the Indian Bishops' Conference, Card. George Alencherry, Head of the Syro-Malabar Church, Card. Oswald Gracias, President of the Latin Rite Conference concelebrated the Mass. Sr. Rani Maria is the first woman martyr of India.

#### Sibi George appointed Indian envoy to Holy See (catholicfocus)



Indian Foreign Service officer, Sibi George will be the new ambassador of India to the Holy See. Mr. Sibi, a native of Pala in Kottayam, is at present is the ambassador to Switzerland.

#### The precious contribution of Catholic universities to the nation (Agenzia Fides)



Catholic universities in India offer a valid and precious contribution to building the country, guaranteeing quality education to young people of all religions, cultures and ethnicities. 5 Catholic universities of India took part in the colloquium: Assam Don Bosco University (Guwahati), Christ University (Bangalore), St Xavier University (Bhubaneswar), St Xavier University (Calcutta), and St Joseph University (Kohima). "The topic is pertinent in the contemporary educational scenario in India and subtle attempts are being made to saffronise (from the color saffron of Hindu extremist groups, ndr) educational establishments of the country", explains to Fides Salesian Fr. George Thadathil, who was present.

#### Million signatures for protecting children (interfax)

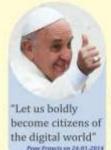
Million signatures for protecting human life from the moment of conception, for banning artificial abortions and extending help to pregnant women and families with children from federal budget will be conveyed to the administration of the Russian president by representatives of For Life movement.



#### Vatican to stop cigarette sales (CWN)

Pope Francis has ordered a stop to cigarette sales at the Vatican. Greg Burke, the director of the Vatican press office, announced that that cigarette sales would be stopped, beginning in 2018, because "the Holy See cannot contribute to an activity that clearly damages the health of people." He cited World Health Organization statistics showing that cigarettes contribute to the death of seven million people annually worldwide. Cigarettes have long been available at the supermarket inside Vatican City, for sale to Vatican employees and pensioners and accredited pensioners.



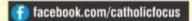


## **Catholic Focus**

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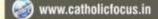






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1st - 2nd	Pro-life Symposium - Panvel	13th	Financial Council
3rd	KMS Annual Day - Kanjurmarg		Qurbana - Kalina
	Conclusion of Home Mission - Sakinaka	14th	Sawanthwady
4th	Minor Seminary Class - Panvel	15th - 17th	WRCC - Goa
5th	Monthly recollection & Presbyterium -	18th	Minor Seminary Class - Panvel
	Bishop's House	20th	Karunya Trust Meeting
	School Golden Jubilee - Malad (East)	21st	School Annual Day - Andheri
6th	Curia - Bishop's House	23rd	Health Commission Meeting -
8th	MPC - Panvel		Goregaon
9th	Presbyteral Council & Pastoral Council -	24th	Kalyan (West) Cathedral
	Bishop's House	25th	Christmas - Get together of Priests
10th	Qurbana - Thikujiniwadi	27th	Qurbana - Edappally
11th	Minor Seminary Class - Panvel	28th	Priestly Ordination - Manalumkal
12th	Consultors Meeting	29th	Kanjirappally
	Karunya Directors' Meeting - Bishop's	30th	Priestly Ordination - Ayarkunnam
	House	31st	Qurbana - Irinjalakuda



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## CAROL SINGING COMPETITION

INTER-RELIGIOUS MEETING

KERALA FOOD FESTIVAL

PROVIDING ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE BENEFICIARIES OF KARUNYA TRUST
IN THE PRESENCE OF

MAR THOMAS ELAVANAL (Bishop Of Kalyan) MAR ABRAHAM VIRUTHAKULANGARA (Archbishop Of Nagpur)

DATE: DECEMBER 17, 2017 | TIME: 4 PM TO 10 PM | VENUE: C.G.S. GROUND ANTOPHILL

CHRISTMAS CONCERT BY



MUSIC DIRECTOR ALPHONSE





# Failure is NOT Fatal

"Success is not final, failure is not fatal. It is the courage to continue that counts" was a statement made by Winston Churchill. How true a statement! Any success brings with it more challenges, as well as more goals. On the other hand, failure is never fatal or the end. It is just a stepping stone to guide you in a different direction that can lead you to your goal.

#### **Never Give Up**

We all will fail at some point in our life. Failing is a learning experience so we can do better next time. There are many successful persons who failed initially, but did they give up? No, they learned from their mistakes and kept on moving forward. Determination to strive after failure leads to success. Steve Jobs' is a classic tale.

When you fail, you have to get up and try again. Eventually you will get it right. We all know, in spite of several failures, how persistent Thomas Edison was in his experiments. When you give up that is failure. Dr APJ Abdul Kalam advises: "If you fail, never give up; FAIL means First Attempt In Learning."

#### Have Faith in God

True failure is not even trying to get back up, but just quitting. You could have been so close, but you say it's not going to work. God is always near and if you fall He'll pick you up and dust you off. We must have faith in the Lord. If God told you to do something and if something is God's will then it will never fail.

Sometimes before we even fail because of anxious thoughts we feel like failures. We think what if it doesn't work, what if God doesn't answer. We must not let fear overtake us. We must trust in the Lord. Go to the Lord in prayer. If a door is there for you to enter, then it will remain open. If God

closes a door don't worry because He has an even better one open for you. Spend time with Him in prayer and allow Him to guide.

God will help us when we do fail. But remember if we do fail He has a good reason in allowing it to happen. We might not understand it at that moment, but God will prove to be faithful in the end.

#### We Are NOT Perfect

God understands that not everyone is perfect, but that doesn't mean you can't still be successful. There are many characters in the Bible who faced many failures, but still came out victorious.

God does not choose you and me just by random luck. He knows us, we may have a few failures in our records, but we can learn from Bible characters like Joseph, Job, Moses, and Peter that despite weakness and failure, we can be used mightily by our all-powerful God, because He knows us and He is willing to discuss and debate with us His plans and His reasons for calling us.

If Joseph of the Old Testament lived in our time, everyone would probably consider him a loser, but God knew his heart, just as He knows yours. If you stay loyal, faithful to God, and keep exercising that gift or talent He has given you, there will be a day when victory will come. You will arise, not to be king, rich or famous, but to be in a position of influence where God will use you in a mighty way – not for your glory, but for His glory.

## **QUIZ**

There are many instances in the Bible where God has given reassurance to the people.

Find out which Book, Chapter and Verse the following Bible verses are from.

- 1. My flesh and my heart may fail, But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.
- 2. Be determined and confident. Do not be afraid. Your God, the Lord himself, will be with you. He will not fail you or abandon you.

- 3. Though I fall I will rise; Though I dwell in darkness, the Lord is a light for me.
- 4. The LORD upholds all who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down.
- 5. We know that trouble produces endurance, endurance brings God's approval, and His approval creates hope.
- 6. He helps those who are in trouble; He lifts those who have fallen.
- 7. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Send answers to the Quiz along with your name, catechism section and parish to lanternkidsroom@gmail.com before 24th December, 2017. Names of the lucky winners will be published in the next issue of the Lantern.

### **WINNERS**

of the Activity of November 2017:

- Faustina Salin (Virar) Aleena Wilson (Vikhroli)
- Abila & Abeena Francis (Kalyan West)
- Ian Honey (Airoli) Jino Kuriakose (Virar)



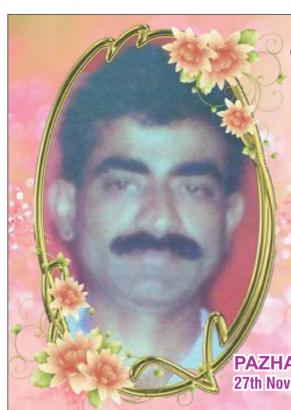
#### **COLOURS OF CHRISTMAS**

Christmas is round the corner and Christmas decoration is incomplete without the colours red, green and gold. These Colours of Christmas are symbolically attached to the festival and each one of them holds a deep meaning. Colours of Christmas red, green and gold symbolise the three teachings of Jesus Christ.

- GOLD Gold is the colour of giving. The third king, who came on the birth of Jesus, gave gold as a gift. The use of the gold colour in Christmas depicts the incident of the magi. Jesus was a gift that God gave the human kind for a better life.
- GREEN In Christianity it is believed that the colour green signifies the eternal life of Jesus. Green is the colour of holly plants which maintain their colour even in severe winters. Christmas heralds the birth of Christ in a very difficult circumstance. After all the hardship, Jesus still survived. It was the blessing of God that though Jesus was forced to take death, he continued living in the hearts of many. Green, thus, teaches us the true meaning and worth of life. The green Christmas tree is the symbolic representation of immortality.
- RED The colour red symbolises the blood of Jesus when he was crucified. Red also symbolises his teaching of unconditional love. Red is bright colour, which also means joy. When unconditional love prevails among people joy is bound to come. Thus, red is one of the most important colours of Christmas.

It is nice to understand the meaning of the colours of Christmas and practice it not only during Christmas but make it the principle of living.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL



## In Joving Memory of our Dad

Those we love don't go away, They walk besides us everyday, Unseen, unheard, but always near, Still loved, still missed and very dear.

Fondly remembered by
Philomina Anto (wife)
Mevin and Leon (Son in Laws)
Jisha and Maria (Daughters)
Evelyn and vava (Grand Daughters)

Address: Room No.2, Mukund Deep Apartment, S.V.Nagar Khopoli.

PAZHAYATIL CHUMMAR ANTO 27th November, 1959 - 21st December, 2007

## 15th Death Anniversary

Those who are righteous will be long remembered (Psalm 112:6.)

Death thinks
it can take you away from us.
But it doesn't know you will
always live in our memory,
we miss you.

Fondly remembered by Husband, Son, Daughter in law Grand Son, Relatives and Friends.



JOMMA MATHEW Born:16-11-1958

Death:12-12-2002

## **KMS Competitions ARMONIA 2017**































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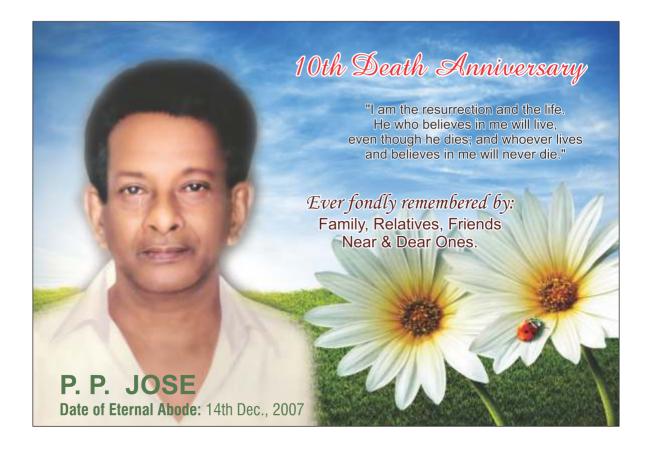
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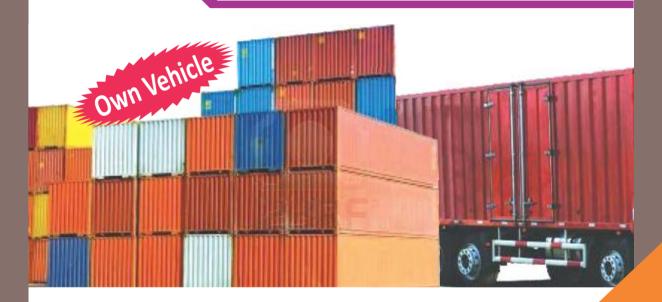


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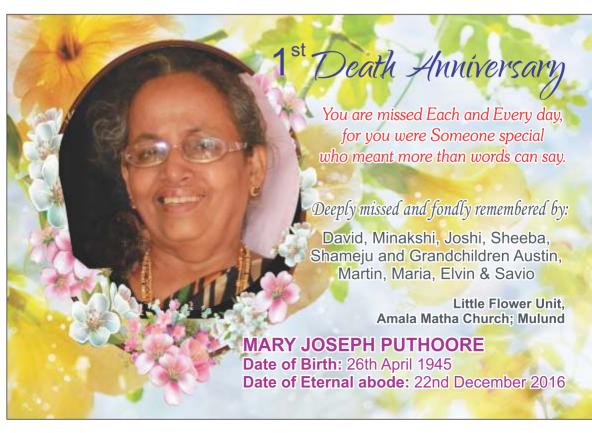
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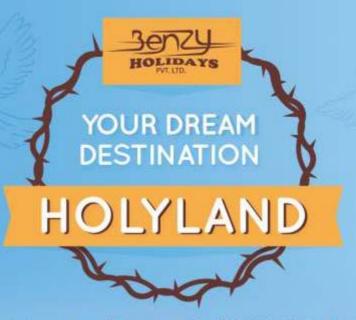
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