



The **WAR CRY**

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MERRY
CHRISTMAS

"Today in the town of David
a Saviour has been born to you,
He is the Messiah, the Lord"

Luke 2:11 (NIV)



The Locked Doors in Bethlehem

On that cold night, the doors of all the houses and inns were closed against that man and that pregnant lady in Bethlehem. What on earth is as heavy as a locked door? Everywhere, every time somebody locks the door against some others. There is a story of such a locked door at the beginning of the Bible. Not only they were expelled, but also placed a Sword of Fire at the door to prevent anyone else from entering. What a horrible experience! Bethlehem, the place where the 'Word' Became 'Flesh'! Yes, this place gives us the invitation and responsibility to eat more this word. Because there is something in Jesus that can quench all man's inquiries and hunger. This is a time when human's words do not become flesh. We can eat more words as the distance between words and reality increases- yes, Bethlehem compels us to meditate more on this Word.

It's a place that teaches us how to live happily in our limitations. When all the doors of the inn are locked against a man and his wife, they seek refuge in a manger. Suddenly, that little space became more beautiful because of the songs of the angels, the joy of shepherds and praises of Mary and Joseph. We live in a world which is controlled by the market, and it is inventing and introducing new things to give satisfaction to their customers but fails miserably. Bethlehem reminds us that recognizing God's will and presence can bring joy and beauty in our life through very small things.

Years later, that man to whom against all the doors were closed declared: 'I AM THE DOOR' and the world took it over with great joy. What great possibilities the doors give to the world! When people think there is no way to move forward, when tragedies come, when it seems to no longer exist, they tell 'my door is closed'. But He became the door of happiness, peace, friendship, hope and love to many those who found refuge in him. Do bitter experiences have to make us more bitter? No! If there's a painful thing that has ever happened in my life, that's also came crossing this door! Yes, the peace, comfort, fearlessness and the protection that a door offers us is not a small thing. There can be many reasons to be afraid outside the door in this most depressing period of the century, but let's believe inside of this door we are safe.

The door which is locked in the Garden of Eden was opened in Bethlehem for every one of us. As in the first book, there is a hint in Revelation- the last book of Bible, one man is standing anxiously outside of a door asking permission to let in. No matter how much we stumble, how far we gone, how much broken we are, one day this door will have to be opened for Him. Bethlehem urges us to live simply beyond celebrations and decorations and to bring joy and beauty in ourselves and others. Let's open the door for our Saviour Jesus who is the only reason for our Great Joy and Hope!

May Christmas Bring Joy to Your Heart and Happiness to Your Home!



Major Evama Shaijura
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The General's Christmas Message

HE IS BEFORE ALL THINGS, AND IN HIM ALL THINGS HOLD TOGETHER [COLOSSIANS 1:17 NIV]

What a year 2021 has been! In these past 12 months our world has continued to face up to the challenge and reality of the COVID-19 pandemic, dealing with illness and death, as well as recovery strategies and vaccination programmes. In contrast there was the welcome relief of the Olympic and Paralympic Games which provided positive engagement, something to enjoy and an opportunity to celebrate our countries' achievements. Of course, we have also witnessed both natural and man-made disasters and tragedies – wildfires in different countries, the assassination of a president, hurricanes and storms – each presenting significant challenges. In recent days the Taliban has retaken control of Afghanistan, with people fleeing the country, concerns about the education of women, the potential return to the ways of former regimes and the loss of any semblance of democracy.

In such tumultuous times where, or to who, do we turn? Hebrews 13:8 tells us that we turn to Jesus, who is the same 'yesterday and today and for

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today and for
ever'**

Hebrews 13:8

ever'; whilst Colossians 1:17 describes him as the one in whom 'all things hold together'; and Revelation 22:13 as 'the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End'. We need to turn to the one who is wiser than we are, more compassionate than we are, more powerful than we are, who is both transcendent yet with us, and who is present in the midst of the tumult and chaos with its resultant personal cost because, as we read in Psalm 23 and in Matthew 11 verse 28, he invites us to rest. If ever there is a time to turn to Jesus it is at Christmas, when we pause to remember and celebrate his birth, his incarnation and his becoming Immanuel (God with us).

What does all this mean? It means there is hope! It means we are not on our own! It means we have someone who can restore our souls when we are weary; someone who can

give us rest when we are tired; someone who can provide an eternal perspective when the immediate is all-consuming; someone who holds us and our world together when we and it are falling apart. That truly is something worth celebrating this Christmastime. Why would we not want to get to know someone like Jesus?

If your relationship with Jesus has been neglected for a while, Christmas represents an opportune time for it to be reconnected, reignited. And if you don't know him already, Christmastime is also an opportunity to meet Jesus for the first time – to invite him into your heart and life as saviour and friend.

Commissioner Rosalie joins me in wishing you a Happy Christmas and God's blessings during this holy season. 🕯️



General Brian Peddle

GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY

Commissioner Suresh Pawar
International Secretary, South Asia, IHQ-London



Every year, Christmas comes with reminder of God's redeeming love revealed to the world in Jesus. The angels appeared to the poor shepherded watching their flock in the cold night, bringing them the greatest news of Birth of the Savior. They comforted the shepherds with these words, 'Don't be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy that will be for all the people'. (Luke 2: 10 GNB)

In every corner of our world and in our communities, we see so many people wondering in darkness of life. They wonder because of the darkness of sin, misleading, confusion, pain, helplessness, corruption, injustice, hurts and so much more. This takes away our peace and joy that God has intended for us all.

We long to hear something good, but instead, every day we hear – see- and read in newspaper, TV, radio and digital media, the news that shock us and worry us. Uncertainty of life frightens and scares us.

The Good thing is, the Word of God still brings very needed good news of great joy

and hope. It is not about the news of Jesus Birth anymore. Jesus was born two thousand years ago. This time, it is the promise of God, fulfilled in Jesus. Jesus our Savior; lives forever bring freedom and hope in midst of all the fear and uncertainty.

This news is very real and still relevant to those, who are longing for freedom from the bondage of sin and its fear, you can still listen to this news and respond in faith as those Shepherd did at the first Christmas. They immediately responded by getting on their feet to meet with the Newborn King and Savior Jesus Christ.

This is the News about Jesus, for all people from all walks of life. Regardless of what circumstances they may be going through, he brings true comfort.

For the troubled hearts, he brings peace. Jesus Said, 'Peace is what I leave with you; it is my own peace that I give you. I do not give it as the world does. Do not be worried and upset; do not be afraid' (John 14:27 GNB).

For those who seek meaning and purpose for their lives, can hope for God's good will for their lives. With trust they can ask God, as Bible says, 'Every good gift and every perfect present comes from heaven; it comes down from God, the Creator of the heavenly lights, who does not change or cause darkness by turning'. (James 1:17 GNB)

For those who have lost hope and are


living a defeated life, Jesus bring great hope to them. He says, '...But be brave! I have defeated the world!' (John 16:33)

For those who are lonely, unloved and deserted, know that God has loved us. He came to us and lives with us, never to leave us. Bible says, 'And the Word become flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth' (John 1:14)

Jesus, Savior and Christ, God's son came into this world. He revealed the truth of God's Kingdom and His glory. He became one like us. He borne our sin on cross and died on our place, so that our sins may be forgiven, and we are freed from the bondage of sin and its fear. We can be accepted in the family of God, become a child of God. He rose from the death and lives forever. He gives us victory over the evil and its influence.

This news of great joy is still the message relevant to us in our generation and for the generations that would follow us. In fact, this News will remain the good news till Jesus comes back in his glory. He will then gather those who received this news and met with their Savior and Christ, asking him to come into their lives.

If you are seeking true meaning to your life, may these words of this Christmas message ring into your heart. Listen to this great news of joy, coming from your creator God, who loves you and cares for you.

Pray a simple prayer, asking Jesus to forgive your sins. Ask him to come into your life, for there is no greater news than this that Jesus saves and gives the greatest joy. 



NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD!

Commissioner Martha Pawar
Zonal Secretary for Women's Ministry, South Asia, IHQ-London



I wish all War Cry readers a very blessed Christmas! This year's Christmas celebration may be different from the previous year. Last year we were in lockdown and were not able to congregate as we traditionally do. For many, Christmas is an annual celebration, but for those who believe and follow Jesus in their daily life, it is a lifelong celebration. It is an everlasting joy of God's plan to save us from our sins and give us eternal life. God himself came into this world and lived amongst us. It is wonderfully stated in John's Gospel, 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God', and 'the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and the truth' (John 1:1 & 14).

God chose Mary, his servant to bring to reality His glorious plan for the whole world. This was beyond Mary's understanding and capacity. Considering her community, her surroundings, traditions, and even human factors, nothing was in accordance with what God had revealed to her. Naturally, she was afraid and confused. It was difficult for her to comprehend God's way for her life. In such a perplexing situation, this is the message the angel brought to her at that first Christmas; "FOR NOTHING WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD" (Luke 1:37).

In our present age, we are surrounded by uncertainty. Although the world has

reached its highest peak in the development of science and various other technologies, there is also increase in evil to its highest peak. People struggle with many unanswered questions. Losing their patience, they give up hope that any good will happen. In such a hopeless life, this message comes alive for those who are willing to hear: "NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD".

God's promises are true. St. Luke gives us an account of that first Christmas when Mary was given a unique and unusual message of Jesus' birth. We find that in Luke 1:26-38. The promises of God proclaimed by the angel to Mary are very true for our lives, no matter whatever situation we may be facing at this time.

'FAVOURED', 'THE LORD IS WITH YOU', 'DO NOT BE AFRAID', are the words we read in verses 26 to 30. The good news is that, although this was specifically told to Mary at that first Christmas, it is relevant to those who are willing to seek God's will in their lives.


For me, favoured means: God has pleasure in me; His acceptance of me; choosing me for himself; having a greater plan for my life to join with him in blessing people around me. The Bible says, "For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly" (Psalm 84:11).

Jesus is called 'Immanuel' – God with us (Matthew 1:23). Jesus promised to be with us all the time; in good times and in

times when things do not favour us. Jesus said, "Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:20).

If we trust in God, we need not fear. The word 'FEAR' appears in the Bible approximately 365 times. This is enough for us to go about our daily tasks with the promise of God. Fear is the weapon mainly used by Satan. Jesus sets us free from the bondage of sin and its fear. Having God's presence in our life, we can confidently face any situation without any fear. As King David said, we may also say, as we trust in God, "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil" (Psalm 23:4).

If we want to claim this promise and experience God's wonderful power working in our lives, we need to do as Mary, the mother of Jesus did. In response to the message she received from the angel she willingly accepted God's plan. She asked, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" (Luke 1:34). After hearing the instructions, she responded in obedience, saying, "I am the Lord's servant. May it be to me as you have said" (Luke 1:38).

There is nothing impossible for God. He is able to change your life. He has greater plans for you, wonderful, and exceedingly beyond your imagination. He is interested in your life. He has shown great favour towards you. He gives you salvation and hope that is everlasting in Jesus Christ. Jesus has promised his everlasting presence in our life and casts out all fear. He enables us to fulfil God's purpose for our lives. You can simply respond to this message by accepting His will. Ask Jesus to come into your life. Pray and obediently surrender to Him. You will experience that 'there is nothing impossible for God'. 

"I am the Lord's servant. May it be to me as you have said"

Greetings from new National Office Leaders

It gives immense joy to both of us to greet and wish you, particularly at this festive season. We are thankful to God and to our international leaders for the opportunity conferred upon us to take up the roles as the national office leaders, as National Executive Officer and Secretary for Women Development; with effective from 1st November 2021. God has been good and faithful in granting us the best blessings throughout our officership, and we are indebted for the heavenly blessings that we are receiving from time to time.

Working in the national office is a privilege where we have the access to all the territories, which is the mission of the national office to exploring the ways of sharing the love of Jesus by means of creating opportunities for caring people, generating pathways for proclaiming the Gospel, equipping personnel for building strong communities, and strengthening co-workers for making realistic

transformation among people.


We will be very much happy in this coordination and facilitating roles to achieve the common mission of building the kingdom. It will be our delight to offer full-fledged quality services to meet the needs of Indian Salvation Army, while adhering to the principles of accountability & governance.

We urge the readers of the War Cry to pray for us, as we are taking up new responsibilities. We believe in the power of prayer, and our united prayers can renew and revive our Army. We would like to encourage you with a verse "May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy" Colossians 1:11.

Please continue to contribute to the War Cry, and together we can share the love of



Jesus through our writings and messages. We wish you personally all the readers, officers, salvationists and friends a happy Christmas and a blessed new year.

With grateful thanks. 

Colonels S. P. Simon & Annamma Simon
India National Office, Kolkata

International Promotions

Following the information received from the international headquarters we are happy to inform the readers of War Cry about the international promotions.

COLONELS DANIEL RAJU AND BABY SAROJINI DASARI, officers of the India Central Territory currently serving respectively as Territorial Commander and Territorial President of Women's Ministries, India Northern Territory are promoted to the rank of commissioner: Colonel Baby Sarojini Dasari on 1 November 2021 and Colonel Daniel Raju Dasari on 2 November 2021.

COLONELS JOHN KUMAR AND MANI KUMARI DASARI, officers of the India Central Territory currently serving respectively as Territorial Commander and Territorial President of Women's Ministries, India Southeastern Territory are promoted to the rank of commissioner: Colonel John Kumar Dasari on 3 November 2021 and Colonel Mani Kumari Dasari on 4 November 2021.

We congratulate and uphold our dear leaders in our prayers that their ministry will be a great blessing to India in general and India Northern and India South Eastern territories in particular. May God bless!

Colonel S P Simon
National Executive Officer.

CHRISTMAS AND ITS RELEVANCE TO OUR PERSONAL LIVES

Christmas is about the word incarnation. We sing it every year in our Christmas carols, especially "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" in which a line says, "Veiled in flesh, the Godhead see; Hail the incarnate Deity." If we look at the word incarnation, we can understand what Christmas is about. The Apostles' Creed teaches the doctrine of the Incarnation when it says, "conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary." although we do not find the word incarnation straight. Famous preacher Reverend Spurgeon said, "The birth of Jesus is the grandest light of history, the sun in the heavens of all time. It is the pole star of human destiny, the hinge of chronology, the meeting place of the waters of the past and the future." The Incarnation is such a difficult and powerful doctrine that sometimes we drift away as Christians. We sometimes completely ignore it: We emphasize the crucifixion, resurrection, ascension, and the imminent return of Jesus. But we don't emphasize the Incarnation as much as we really should. In such scenario, how would we relate the Christmas to our present age? What is its significance in our personal lives?

When we deeply understand the scriptures and their message to us, we can understand the importance of Christmas, the Lord's arrival on the earth.

Revealing the Father

Revealing the Father is the number one focus of Jesus ministry. Jesus' vision is to bring Heaven to Earth. His mission is to seek and to save the lost. The method that Jesus employed to seek and to save the lost and to bring Heaven to Earth was always – to reveal the Father! The trinity operates as one, with one purpose and one heart they work together to accomplish their task of restoring to humanity an accurate image of who the Father is. In everything that

Jesus did, He was expressing the nature of the Father by demonstrating the will of the Father. Jesus gives perfect expression to the unseen hand of the Father, which is directing His every movement. Jesus gives perfect expression to the nature, character, and image of the Father. The Father is in Christ fully expressing Himself to the world. Everything that Jesus did was a perfect expression, a perfect reflection, and a perfect revelation of who our Father in Heaven truly is. If we have not yet experienced this divine truth, our faith must be questioned.

Redeeming the Mankind

To "redeem" means to buy back something that has been lost, sold or given away. Because of Birth Sin and our personal sins, we were slaves of the devil. But Jesus freed us, giving us the freedom of the children of God, for, by His Resurrection, He destroyed death and gave us the life of grace. Jesus Christ redeemed us by His Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension. By sinning, man failed to love God, but Christ's work of redemption was an act of infinitely perfect love and obedience, which made up His whole life on earth. His infancy spent in Egypt and His thirty years at home in Nazareth were as much a part of our redemption as were the three years of His active life and His Death on the Cross was the climax of His earthly lifetime of obedience to the will of the Father.

Reconciling with God

Christ came to bring peace between God and mankind. This idea is marvellous! Christ's job was to restore harmony between us. What sin disrupted; Jesus restored. To do this, Christ entered the world with the fullness of God dwelling permanently in Him as part of His nature, not as something that was given to Him to help Him accomplish this task. He was fully God and yet willingly became fully man so He could usher in a contract of



Colonel Gabriel Christian
Territorial Commander
India South Western Territory

peace for us. He became a delegate for both parties, the result was the reconciliation of all things, and this pleased the Father. "When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having cancelled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross" (Colossians 2:13-14). Whatever separation existed between God and mankind before Christ, has been removed and nailed to the very cross that brought us peace. This image is a reminder that harmony has been restored.

The significance of Christmas is that Jesus, the Saviour is born to save the world from sin and as a result God established His Kingdom on earth. The fall of man in the book of Genesis is the foundation of Christmas. The fall of man into sin at the Garden of Eden necessitated the need for a Saviour to be born to deliver the world from sin. The birth of Jesus Christ brought about the Good News and that is why the Gospel is simply referred to as the GOOD NEWS.

May we realise and recognise this truth to live our lives believing in Jesus so as to receive the fruit of our utmost faith, the Heaven. Wishing everyone a Christ centred Christmas! 🏠

Christmas

— A Reminder of Great Promises



Colonel S. P. Simon
National Executive Officer
India National Office, Kolkata

Another Christmas time has arrived, and the preparations may have already been commenced. People will be busy for celebrating this Christmas in their own understanding. The churches will get ready with needed attractive measures for making this festive season more colourful. Christmas means different to different people. It will be a profitable business to commercial traders. It will be a season of food for food lovers. It will be a time of enjoyment for many young people.

I do not know, how you may feel at this Christmas and what exactly it means to you, but I would want to stress here the true meaning of Christmas. The true meaning of Christmas is love. John 3:16-17 says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." The true meaning of Christmas is the celebration of this incredible act of love. While we contemplate this great truth, we also need to think about the promise it brought to the universe, which is an everlasting great truth. "She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21

A Promise of Divine Love

God is Love. Therefore, God gave his only Son as our Saviour. The greatest synonym that can be given to Christmas is "Love". This joyous season is meant to be the celebration of the true love of God to mankind. As an act of gratefulness every year we celebrate this love by exchanging gifts, loving one another and thanking the Lord for the biggest sacrifice he has done by being one among us. We truly believe that sharing the true Gospel is one of the finest gifts that anybody can give to their loved ones. Hence, during this holy season we are

delighted to bring the Gospel of our matchless God during the Christmas sermon. Through this good news we trust that many lives will be transformed and know the real meaning of this merry time. This reminds of the promise that he would love unconditionally, leaving a challenge to us how best we love our fellow brethren, our neighbours.


A Promise of Redemption

After man disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden, God gave his promise that he would provide a redeemer. That redeemer was his Son. As our doctrine says that we all are depraved because of disobedience which is a result of sin. We also reminded in the scriptures "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" Romans 3:23, and we need to be redeemed. This incarnation of Christ brought redemption through his blood and brought us the gift of salvation. Redemption is used in both the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. In the Old Testament, redemption involves deliverance from bondage based on the payment of a price by a redeemer. Fundamental to the message of the New Testament is the announcement that Jesus of Nazareth is the fulfilment of Israel's messianic hope and that, in him, the long-awaited redemption has arrived. Deliverance of humankind from its state of alienation from God has been accomplished through the death and resurrection of Christ. In the New Testament, redemption requires the payment of a price, but the plight that requires such a ransom is moral, not material. Humankind is held in the captivity of sin from which only the atoning death of Jesus Christ can liberate. Let this Christmas season be a reminder that we need redemption on a day-to-day basis, from our short falls, depravity and sinful nature.

A Promise of Eternal Life.

It was God's unconditional love that no human must perish. As promised, he

brought his begotten son to bring us eternal life. Death should not be the final destination, and God wanted that His images must be with him eternally on a everlasting manner. So this Christmas promise brought eternal life to people who believe in Jesus. "And this is the promise God has promised us, even ETERNAL LIFE!" (1 John 2:25 NKJV). Apostle Paul states, "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23). In this verse, the Greek word for gift is charisma. Charisma means a gift of grace, an undeserved favour. Thus, eternal life is not something we deserve or earn. Eternal life is an undeserved gift of God's grace and favour. "In spite of your sanctification as Christians, still you will not have earned eternal life; it is the gift of God's grace". Jesus said, "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand" (John 10:27-28). For the believer, eternal life begins in the present, and now. Jesus described eternal life in the present tense. Thus, eternal life is not just in the future, but is a present possession of the believer which continues. When we think about Christmas, we must also think about our life on the earth and beyond the earth. There is a promise of eternal life, but there is a condition too. This Christmas allows us to think to set our minds on this promise to be fulfilled in our lives.

As we pass through this festive season, may I request each one of the readers to recollect these promises and check whether you are fit to God's promises that might be fulfilled in your personal life? May this Christmas fulfil God's promise in your life resulting you to be his dear child. Once again, I wish you all a happy Christmas and blessed new Year. 



O, COME, LET US ADORE HIM

Colonel Sumitra Y Masih

Territorial President of Women's Ministries, India Central Territory

I believe that there will be no Christian who do not know and sing the hymn - O, Come, Let Us Adore Him. It is a well-known song during the Christmas times. This hymn is a call for God's faithful, joyous people to contemplate the "King of Angels" in Bethlehem's manger. The first verse puts out the invitation.

"O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.

When we sing "O, Come, All Ye Faithful," we are reaffirming that the baby in Bethlehem's manger is indeed God in human flesh, Christ the Lord.

It came in my mind what would have been the thoughts of the authors originally written in Latin as *Andesite Fiddles* by John Francis Wade, John Reading, King John IV of Portugal and anonymous Cistercian monks. As a Christian and an officer, I sing this song and many times wanted to understand its deeper truth. As I explained, it is invitation encouraging the people to come and adore. What does it mean to adore? The dictionary meaning is to worship. For many Christians, worship is what we do on Sunday morning. Singing a few songs, listening to a preaching, sharing communion, and doing whatever else is scheduled for the Sunday morning meeting time. Why worship God? For some people, the answer is because it's what they grew up with. It's just what they do. Worship is bowing before our superior, in this case, God. I want to encourage through this article, the need for our adoration towards Lord Jesus.

Adore Jesus for his 'Divinity'

We strongly believe and affirm that Jesus is truly and properly God, which is also in our articles of our faith. The Christian faith would not exist if Jesus was simply a great moral teacher or prophet. Everything about the Christian faith rests on the divinity of Jesus, hence its importance for Christian faith, life and practice. The Bible provides compelling evidence of Jesus' divinity. We see in the Gospels that "were written within living memory of the events they recount." Matthew identifies Jesus as Emmanuel, which means "God with us". Emmanuel describes the concept of the incarnation—God becoming

man. The identity of Jesus as "God with us" is consistent with John 1:1, which refers to Jesus as the "Word who was with God, and who was God". The mind-wrenching reality John tells his readers is that this God—the God who is the Word—became flesh. It is more important to understand the self-revelation of God in John 1 is God becoming flesh. These facts show the need for us to adore him.

Adore Jesus for his 'Supremacy'

The supremacy of Christ is a doctrine surrounding the authority of Jesus and His God-nature. In the simplest of terms, to affirm the supremacy of Christ is to affirm that Jesus is God. To speak of "supremacy" is to speak of that which is "above" or "over" others. It reaches the level of the "Super." In our language it refers to that which is greatest in power, authority, or rank. It is also used to describe that which is greatest in importance, significance, character, or achievement—the "ultimate." In all these areas of consideration, Jesus ranks as the ultimate or supreme—supreme in power, rank, glory, authority, importance, etc. The supremacy of Jesus teaches us that He is not simply a spiritual being above the rest. St. Paul tells us that through Him all things visible and invisible, in heaven and on earth, i.e., spiritual, and physical, were created. Hebrews 1:4 tells Jesus is superior to the angels. This truth negates any tendencies toward angel worship. Jesus created the angels and is above them. We are explicitly told He is greater than them. Therefore, we need only adoring Jesus.

Adore Jesus for his 'Humanity'

If there is anything of which modern Christians have been certain it is that Jesus was a true man, bone of our bone, flesh of our flesh, in all points tempted as we are. We need only read the Gospels to attest to the fact of Jesus' genuine humanity. To emphasize the deity of Christ in no way diminishes his humanity, and to highlight his humanity in no way detracts from his deity. The properties of each nature retain their own integrity even in their union in the singular person of the Son.

The humanity that Christ assumed was complete; he took to himself all that it means to be human—body, soul, mind, and will—with only sin excepted. Jesus's humanity is evident from the following considerations in the New Testament. His humanity is apparent throughout the "whole course" of his obedience. His conception, birth, development, limitations, suffering, death, burial, resurrection, ascension, ongoing priestly work, and final return give powerful testimony to the genuine humanity of Christ.

Adore Jesus for his 'Humility'

In all the Scriptures we will find no greater insight than that which pertains to Jesus, the ultimate example of humility. Before He came to earth as a man, Jesus had existed throughout eternity past as deity, the eternal Son of God. Although He would of necessity exist endlessly as God He did not go about independently exercising His Godhood: "but made Himself of no reputation." Instead of manifesting all of His innate glory, He functioned as any human slave would: "taking the form of a servant and coming in the likeness of men." During His earthly ministry, He Himself would emphasize His servanthood role. "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28). In His majestic salvation mission, Jesus, the Son of God, would voluntarily accept the path of humility. "He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross." Jesus' humility is an expression of his Holiness. We must inherit that our hearts must be captivated by the beauty of holiness which is evident in the humility of the Lord Jesus Christ.

As we celebrate another Christmas in our lives, the true call of adoring Jesus must be practiced and trained, in order for us to move in our day-to-day spiritual journey. Our focus on Jesus will help us to reach our destination. Let our adoration and exaltation be acceptable in the sight of the living God. Wishing all the readers a Happy Christmas, full of divine blessings!



THREE WISE WOMEN OF THE CHRISTMAS

You may certainly be wondered when you first look at the title of this article, pointing yourselves to the wise men who came to see Jesus from the East. The women I speak here are not those eastern wise, but or more significant than them. Women are crucial figures in the history of Christianity. And if it wasn't for the faith and obedience of women, the divine message of Christmas may never have been told. The way Jesus is introduced to us is different in every Gospel story. With regard to the women, it is only Luke's Gospel that tells us about the moment Mary found out about God's plan for her to carry the infant Jesus. Luke goes into extensive detail about Mary's conversation with the angel Gabriel, and especially about her visit with Elizabeth, as both women awaited the birth of their sons. Later he singles out Anna, an aged prophetess who witnessed Jesus being presented at the temple. It is impossible to tell the story of Jesus without acknowledging the women involved in the first Christmas, who carried the promise and presence of God into the world.

Mary- the Woman of Sacrifice

Mary appears by name in the Synoptic Gospels and in the book of Acts. Luke contains the most references to Mary and places the greatest emphasis on her role in God's plan. Fearful and troubled, Mary found herself in the presence of the angel Gabriel listening to the divine announcement. She could never have expected to hear the most incredible news—that she would have a child, and her son would be the Messiah. Although she could not comprehend how she would conceive the Savior, she responded to God with humble belief and obedience. Although Mary's calling held great honor, it would demand great suffering too. There would be pain in childbirth and motherhood, as well as in the privilege of being the mother of the Messiah.

Mary was willing to submit her life to God's plan no matter what it would cost her. Obedience to the Lord's will meant Mary would be disgraced as an unwed mother. Mary may not have considered the full extent of her future suffering. She may not

have imagined the pain of watching her beloved child bear the weight of sin and die a terrible death on the cross. But surely, she knew that her life would hold many sacrifices as the mother of the Messiah. Being chosen by God for a high calling requires total commitment and a willingness to sacrifice everything out of love and devotion to the Saviour. We must realise that walking with Jesus means walking down some scary paths. And it almost always requires some form of sacrifice—even when that sacrifice is simply giving up on the expectations we may have been carrying.

Elizabeth- the Woman of Servanthood

Elizabeth, a descendant of Aaron, was selected by God to be the mother of John the Baptist, the great prophet who would prepare the way before Jesus Christ. Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, appears in only one chapter in the Bible—Luke 1. Her reputation as a woman who was barren changed to one who had a miraculous birth in old age. Elizabeth expressed her appreciation for God's blessing: "Thus the Lord has dealt with me, in the days when He looked on me, to take away my reproach among people" (Luke 1:25). Mary and Elizabeth were able to comfort and encourage each other during their pregnancies. For three months, during Elizabeth and Mary's pregnancy, the two women spent their time together. We don't know what they talked about or what they did together, but we do know that they were there for us.

God has a way of putting people in our lives at just the time we need them. The name Elizabeth means "God keeps his oaths". When Elizabeth went years without conceiving, she had no idea that in her twilight years, God would keep His promises to her. God has given Elizabeth the gift of discernment and prophecy and allowed her the privilege of being the first person to recognise that Jesus is indeed 'the Lord'. God took Elizabeth from out of her shadows and used her.

Anna- the Woman of Persistent Faith

Anna was an old prophetess who, with Simeon, greets the new-born Jesus as he was presented at the temple. Despite living under the shadow of age and isolation, Anna was deeply committed to God to the extent that she was a permanent resident in the temple, worshipping, fasting and praying. She chose to share her faith to as many people as she could. She chose to serve the Lord. She chose to fast and pray, worshipping the Lord Day and night. She chose to tell them the news of the Saviour that was coming, no matter how long it might be before he came. She knew her purpose and she didn't let anyone's opinions or comments keep her from it. Anna's choice would not only affect her life in an abundant way, but also the lives of others ever since.

As a prophetess, we could imagine Anna enjoying God's presence every single day. While Israel was weary and looking for its redemption, Anna had hope knowing full well that God sent already His promised Saviour - His only begotten Son. And this she knew because of her intimate relationship with God. Her life was a living testimony that proves anyone of any age can serve God. Age is not an issue with God; He is the Alpha and the Omega. What matters is that we obey Him.

All three of these women carried inside of them the promise of their saviour, the Messiah. The Christmas women all spent time in the presence of God so, when God's promises were present in their lives, they immediately recognized them. Each woman's life in the Christmas story affected people around them as they pointed the world to Christ. These three believed in the promises of God and trusted in God's timing. We must be like the Christmas Women and carry inside of us the promise and the presence of God. We need our lives to affect others, so they look to Christ, to live out a strong faith, believing in His promises with a confident trust in His timing to fulfil them. Wishing all the readers a joyous Christmas filled with heavenly blessings. 🙏



Captain Latha Cheeli
Education Secretary &
Secretary for Youth & Children
India National Office

"Silent Night"! Holy Night!

'This is the Story.....
'This is the Song'

(ESB124)

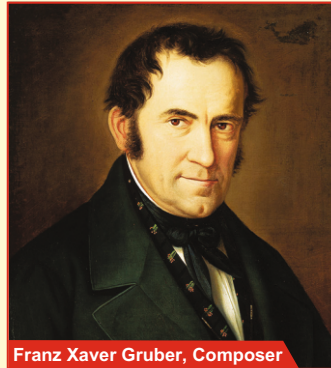
Together with Joseph Mohr, a Catholic priest who wrote the original German lyrics, Gruber composed the music for the Christmas carol Silent Night. On Christmas Eve of 1818, Mohr, an assistant pastor at St Nicholas, showed Gruber a six-stanza poem he had written in 1816. He asked Gruber to set the poem to music. The church organ had broken down, so Gruber produced a melody with guitar arrangement for the poem. The two men sang Stille Nacht for the first time at Christmas Mass in St Nicholas Church while Mohr played guitar and the choir repeated the last two lines of each verse. For a long time, many thought that Silent Night was written by Haydn, Mozart or Beethoven. In later years, Gruber composed additional arrangements of the carol for organ and for organ with orchestra, as well as scores of other carols and masses, many of which are still in print and sung today in Austrian churches.

Stille Nacht - "Silent Night"

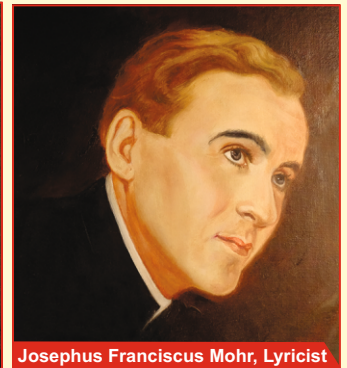
melody for Mohr's "Stille Nacht" in just a few hours.

The song was sung at Midnight Mass in a simple arrangement for guitar and choir. Various legends have sprung up over the years concerning the genesis of "Silent Night", but the simplest and likeliest explanation seems to have been that Mohr simply wanted an original song that he could play on his favourite instrument, the guitar. Within a few years, arrangements of the carol appeared in churches in the Salzburg Archdiocese and folk singers from the Ziller Valley were taking the composition on tours around Europe.

Later life



Franz Xaver Gruber, Composer



Josephus Franciscus Mohr, Lyricist

Hintersee, and in 1837 of the Alpine village of Wagrain. Here he created a fund to allow children from poor families to attend school and set up a system for the care of the elderly. Mohr died of respiratory disease on 4 December 1848, at the age of 55 Legacy.

Mohr's final resting place is in the tiny Alpine ski resort of Wagrain, where he died in 1848. The Joseph Mohr School stands as a fitting memorial, and close to the grave of the man who wrote the words heard around the world. The village school is named after him, and his grave has been kept in a place of honour in the nearby churchyard cemetery. An outdoor exhibit detailing the life of Joseph Mohr is situated on the walkway between the church and the parish house where he once lived. In 2006, the town's Waggerl Museum set up a permanent exhibit – Joseph Mohr – Vicar of Wagrain.

In Austria, Stille Nacht is considered a national treasure. Traditionally, the song may not be played publicly before Christmas Eve.

Until 2006, it was thought that Mohr and Gruber had collaborated on just one composition, but another was located in the Wagrain parish archive by the Salzburg Archdiocesan authorities. The "Te Deum" with text by Joseph Mohr and melody by Franz Xaver Gruber can be heard in an audio exhibit at the Waggerl Museum in Wagrain.



Mr. Justin Benjamin
Senior Songster Brigade Leader
Trivandrum Central Corps
India South-Western Territory

Silent Night! Holy Night! (ESB124)

Tune: Stille Nacht

JOSEPH MOHR (1792 - 1848)
Andante 92
Bb

FRANZ GRUBER (1787 - 1863)

Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All - is calm, all - is bright

5 Round the vir - gin mo - ther and child; Ho - ly in - fant ten - der and mild,

9 Rests in hea - ven - ly peace. Rests - in hea - ven - ly peace.

walked the three kilometres from his home in Oberndorf bei Salzburg to visit his friend Franz Xaver Gruber in the neighbouring town of Arnsdorf bei Laufen. Mohr brought with him a poem he had written some two years earlier. He needed a carol for the Christmas Eve midnight Mass that was only a few hours away, and hoped his friend, a schoolteacher who also served as the church's choir master and organist, could set his poem to music. Gruber composed the

Mohr, a generous man who donated most of his salary to charity, was moved from place to place, and remained in Oberndorf only until 1819. After Oberndorf he was sent to Kuchl, followed by stays in Golling an der Salzach, Bad Vigaun, Adnet and Anthering. In 1827 he was made pastor of

LAUNCHING OF LEARNING PATHWAYS, INT

On 24th September 2021 at the Territorial Headquarters Chapel in the Morning Devotion our Territorial Commander, Colonel Daniel Raju Dasari and the Leadership team along with all the THQ Officers and Staff Launched the Learning Pathways Certificate Level Course Material of Personal Development & Community Engagement for the India Northern Territory.

Territorial Commander briefed about the Learning Pathways Course to all the Officers and Staff, prayed for all the Learners and encouraged them to complete the Certificate Level Course.

He thanked God and our International Leaders for introducing Learning Pathway - a distance learning opportunity for Salvationist this initiative will mark a significant step towards the realization of the Goals making education holistic and for building strong foundations for the Army.

Lieutenant. Samson Francis Territorial Co-Ordinator of Learning Pathways explained the benefits of the course and the opportunity that has been provided by The Salvation Army's International Headquarters as they are pleased to announce Learning Pathway- a distance learning opportunity for Salvationist and friends those are passionate about engaging with their community.

The online learning facility is in partnership with Booth University College, Canada- will offer an opportunity for anyone connected with The Salvation Army to deepen their understanding in the areas of Community Engagement, Community Development and Community Project Management.

The Certificate-level material gives the foundation for engaging with a community using an Integrated Mission and Faith-Based Facilitation approach, bringing together theology and best practice, giving practical skills for community engagement and for supporting course participants' personal development.

Any Salvationist, Officer, Employee or Volunteer of The Salvation Army can participate in the certificate-level course. All these initiatives are being taken out, to have a smooth and efficient implementation of the Integrated Mission and Faith-Based Facilitation approach in the community.

Territorial Commander and the Leadership team presented the Certificate



Material Book to Lieutenant Samson Francis, Territorial Co-Ordinator, and Captain Anil Masih, Co-ordinator of the Learning Pathway and encouraged them to outsource the Learning Pathway Certificate Level Course throughout the territory and make this effort a success.

The launch was concluded with prayer for all the Learners those have enrolled themselves for the Learning Pathways Certificate Course.

May God Bless the India Northern Territory and The Salvation Army around the world.



Lieutenant Samson Francis
Territorial Coordinator of
Learning Pathways
India Northern Territory

"SINGH BHAVANAM" – ISET

It is a small dedication from my parents for the Glory of God"

My name is Mr Chandra Singh Yesudhas, son of the Salvation Army Officers Major A. Yesu Dhas and Major Kamalam Yesudhas. My parents served in the Salvation Army Catherine Booth Hospital, Nagercoil for nearly 40 Years, followed by that in Radhapuram and Vallioor Divisions. During the year 1964



they took voluntary retirement and were residing in Nagercoil "Singh Bhavanam".

God blessed my family; The Salvation Army has made a big difference in our lives. As a gratitude we have donated the "SINGH BHAVANAM" (it is a place of 5 cent land and house) where my parents were staying for the Salvation Army. The building was handed over to Colonel John Kumar Dasari, Territorial Commander on 07th October 2021. All the Glory and Honour to my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ only!!

Mr. & Mrs. Chandra Singh Yesudhas
Nagercoil, Kanyakumari District
Tamil Nadu, India South Eastern Territory



Breast Diseases and Early Detection of Breast Cancer



Most common infection of the breast is lactational mastitis seen in a breast feeding mother. Tuberculosis can cause chronic abscess. A dilated milk duct (duct ectasia) can cause pain, infection or nipple discharge.

The reasons why one should know about the breast diseases in that

1. Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women
2. Most common cause of cancer death in women
3. More than 6 million people affected every year.
4. Young onset CA breast is on the rise.
5. Life time prevalence in CA breast is 1/28.
6. Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Delhi have highest incidence of breast cancer. The global incidence of breast cancer is 14% of all cancers. Breast or Mammary gland is a modified sweat gland. Present in both males and females which enlarges in response to ovarian estrogen and progesterone.

The most common Breast Complaints are:
Pain
Mass/lump
Skin or Nipple changes
Nipple Discharge 85% of breast conditions are benign or harmless. That means only 10 - 15% of the cases are malignant or cancers.

Causes of Breast Pain

1. Cyclical - associated with menstruation,
2. Peri-menopausal or hormone replacement therapy
3. Weight gain, excess caffeine intake, lack of support
4. Infections - breast abscess or causes unrelated to breast like cardiac pain, acidity, muscle or bone pain and anxiety.

FIBROADENOMA

Fibroadenoma is a most common benign lump in the breast seen between the ages of 15 and 25 years. Only the large lumps need be excised. Breast Cancer Most common cancer in females more seen in developed, western countries. Median age of occurrence is 47 years. 2-5% of cases runs in families. Some genetic mutations increases the risk of breast carcinoma. Other conditions that have high-risk of breast cancer are:

1. Diet - low with phytoestrogens and high alcohol intake.
2. Infertile woman.
3. Attaining early menarche and late menopause
4. Previous therapeutic radiation (thoracic) may predispose carcinoma breast especially when RT is given at younger age mainly for Hodgkin's lymphoma.
5. Oral contraceptive pills and hormone replacement therapy (HRT) for more than 5 years.

Conditions that lower the risk of cancer breast are:

1. Early child-bearing and breastfeeding
2. Early 1st child birth
3. Vitamin C and regular exercise.

Breast cancer clinically present as

1. Breast lump
2. Dimpling skin
3. Retraction of nipple.
4. Ulceration, discharge from the nipple and areola.
5. Skin ulceration and fungation. How to diagnose? One with a suspicion of breast

lump or breast cancer should consult a doctor. Method used for a diagnosis is tripple assessment which include clinical evaluation and investigations. Common investigations used are ultrasonogram or mammogram and tissue sampling by cytology (FNAC) or pathology (BIOPSY). A very small needle is used for FNAC part of the lump or whole lump is excised for biopsy. If the diagnosis comes as breast cancer by this tripple assessment the next step is staging of the disease. For which further investigations are being done. Treatment and outcome depends upon exact staging of the disease. Early breast cancers can be effectively treated with breast conservative surgery. In late stages breast has to be removed completely. Other methods of treatment are radio therapy and chemo therapy. Breast conservative surgery is superior since it has psychological advantage with breast preservation. Breast reconstructive surgeries are also done in good oncological centres. Also monthly breast self examination and early detection of cancer helps in breast preservative/conservative surgeries and give good aesthetic outcome. Remember prevention is better than cure.



**Dr. C. M. Shoba, MBBS, MS
(General Surgery)
Consultant Surgeon and
Unit Chief, General Hospital
Thiruvananthapuram**

SKILL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING



The Women Ministry department of India South Western Territory organised a skill development training with the Support of India National Office for selected women on 14th & 15th October 2021 at HRD Centre, Kowdiar Trivandrum. Total 39 women comprising of officers and soldiers successfully completed the training and all of them were provided certificate of participation.

The TPWM inaugurated the training program and delivered a short message based on Exodus 35:3, 31:3 and emphasised that, God has entrusted us with certain talent, gifts, and abilities. Our responsibility is to use these things well for the mission and ministry of God and wellbeing of our society. Lt. Colonel Snehadeepam Saju, WDO welcomed the gathering and introduced resource persons to the participants.


The basic objectives of the training are briefly narrated by Lt. Colonel Rajam Daniel, TSWM and coordinated these two days training program.

Following topics included in 2 days training program: Christmas - Santa Claus - Captain Shermila Gireesh, Santa Claus Hat - Mrs. Lali Reji, Flower Making- Lt. Colonel Sonia Jacob, Bag making - Major Jessy William, Handwash Liquid - Mrs. Laly,

Dish wash Liquid :
Major Lovely Aji

The second day training was started with devotion by Lt. Colonel Rajam Daniel. Then, Mrs. Reena from Kudumbasree explained the possibilities of getting bank loans and various Government schemes for soft skill and its marketing. The delegates were able to present cultural items.

In the final session, The Territorial Commander, Colonel Gabriel Christian gave Closing remarks and encouraged the participants to have a closer relationship with God and engage vigilantly in mission of God. The final session was blessed with the presence and words of Lt. Colonel Daniel Raj, Chief Secretary. He mentioned that skill need to be used for the Salvation of people. All the delegates dedicated their life when the appeal has given in the closing session.

India South-Western Territory is grateful to India National Office and National Leaders for the financial provisions. 

Mrs. Lali Reji
TPWM Secretary, THQ
India South-Western Territory



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Our Mission

"The Salvation Army is an international movement, a part of the Christian Church whose spiritual motivation has practical application in an evangelical, social, educational and health ministry.

It's goal is to help all people find fullness of life in a relationship with the living Christ discovered through the scriptures and demonstrated by holy living in peace and harmony with others."

TRAINING ON EVANGELISM, ISET



As to achieve the Territorial theme of 2021 'Be Engaged in Mission', there was a training programme for the Officers working in 5 Districts, 1 Area and 5 Extensions at TSA-Christian Retreat Conference Centre, Coonoor, Tamil Nadu on 04th to 06th October 2021 under the Leadership of Colonels John Kumar Dasari and Mani Kumari Dasari, Territorial leaders and supported by Lt. Colonel Davidson Varghese, Chief Secretary.

The Evangelism training commenced with Flag hoisting by the Territorial Commander, it was like a mini-Officers council in which 79 Officers were assembled including leaders and faculties from THQ. The inaugural session was conducted by Chief Secretary and focused every officer should have their personnel mission statement. Also, he insisted on to adhere the orders & regulations, principles & procedures officers, especially mercy seat counselling which are important for Evangelism.

The TPWM emphasized the Spiritual discipline of The Salvation Army officers for keeping our identity within the community as well as other Christian ministries. Also, she energized the women officers to develop their leadership capacity through her enthusiastic lecture which mentioned Gender equity and provided Army handbags as a gift to the women Officers.

The Territorial Commander's message on founders' mission values was an inspiration to the officers for taking decision to extend the kingdom of God in unreached areas. And he clearly explained about Baptism and other


Sacraments in his lecture on "The Sacraments and Salvationist Position".

The Cabinet Secretaries Lt. Colonel J. Sahari Das, Lt. Colonel G. Christopher Selvanath & Lt. Colonel R. Arul Dhas have explained guidelines of outreach ministry, Evangelism and Youth Outreach, Army Finance and Symbols, O & R for Local Officers. The morning devotions led by Secretary for Spiritual life and Evangelist, and Mr Victor, a soldier who attended the training as an observer and representative from of Booth Tucker Memorial Church, shared his experience. BTMC is a mission partner within the Territory for this training program.

The Extension officers' achievements reflected through their reports, they have won number of new souls, families, found out 6 new mission fields, reopened 2 old mission field and especially raised 3 candidates for Officer ship. Particularly the cultural items indicated their ministry among the communities as well as their challenges.

During the time of Spiritual meeting the Spirit of the Lord filled the leaders and all the participants could realize the presence of the Lord. The meeting was led by Personnel Secretary, the District and Extension Officers had an opportunity to salute the ministry of Lt. Colonel Davidson Varghese, Chief Secretary who is going to be retired very soon. In his farewell message he shared his ministerial experiences and encouraged all the Officers by the Bible verse 1 Chronicles 28: 20.


The Spirit of the Lord filled the Territorial

Commander and spoke to the participants through Luke 24: 13 – 20. The word of God opened the eyes and minds of the Officers for confirming that Jesus is walking with them and taking ownership about all of them. The Officers who feel tired in the fields have confirmed that Jesus will meet all their needs and challenges. The message is very challenging one and all of them dedicated themselves in the mercy seat and taken a decision to extending the Army to the unreached areas among the downtrodden community. The training was organized by the Personnel department. 

**Programme Department
India South Eastern Territory**

Congratulations



Cadet Giesele Stephen D/o Major T. E. Stephenson and Major Leelamma Stephenson is the cadet of Reflectors of Holiness 2021-'23 session in India South Western Territory. By the grace of God she got first Class in MA English Literature examination conducted by the Kerala University in the year of 2021. Many Congratulations for the great achievement and may God strengthen her to complete the training and become a fruitful weapon in the field. Requesting prayerful support by all readers of the War Cry. 

**Major Alice Jose
Education Officer**

What if? There was no Christmas!

Shining
STARs

Glad tidings of the season! Another year of this decade has come to an end. Only thing that first comes to my mind is how thankful I am to my Saviour!

My young nephew once asked me, "what if there was no Christmas? I wouldn't have candy, no gifts, no vacations, no sweets, I am so happy Jesus was born so I could enjoy this" well at that moment I stood for a moment & started to ponder, what if God had not sent His son Jesus? What if Jesus was never really born? Wouldn't we all end up hopeless and die eternally! I said to my nephew I am happy too, that Jesus was born so I could have this gift of life as well.

We all have a memory of some child among our family or friends asking so many questions. This happens especially with growing kids & sometimes it is... well, annoying. Although this should not be the case, and every question the child has should be answered even if it does not make sense. You see the child is still adapting, taking a lot of data to his brain which he/she is processing, and it makes no sense to them and hence they ask us these questions. We should not suppress their curiosity but rather encourage them. But the fact is this during the transition from a Child to an adult we stop asking questions. The curiosity that a child has when he/she discovers the things is somewhere faded & lost away by the ways of the world, during this transition. And this is precisely when we accept reality and stop asking relevant questions.

A transition of a Christian to a born-again Christian is the same everywhere. Even though the circumstances may be different, but the intent is similar which is seeking God. I would rather say it is more difficult for a brother who is raised in a Christian family to truly understand God than who is born in a non-Christian family. In today's context this is the reason why



About the Author: Anugraha Ashok Dushing is a member & bandsman of Byculla English central Corps, Mumbai. He is the C. E. O. of WISEHOSP SOLUTIONS - A Healthcare firm which designs & constructs Hospitals. He holds a bachelor's degree in social work and Postgraduate in Hospital Administration & Healthcare Management. Apart from this He is also a Music therapist. With his ongoing work He has also enrolled himself for his M. Div from South Asia Theological Seminary.

we see many Christians who denounce their faith & turn atheists. One reason I would say is this: we have been hearing the sermons, attending churches from so long that it has somewhere become like a culture & faded the real relationship with God over time. A Christian is not someone who has been born and raised in a Christian family but born again and saved by faith in Lord Jesus through His grace. Ephesians 2:8.

Until and unless one does not realise the true meaning of this, one does not know what it means to be saved. "I do not follow Jesus because my Pastor/ Parent told me to, I follow Jesus because I realised that I cannot be saved without Him. His death on the cross gave me a new purpose which promises eternal life". 1 John 2:25.

This realisation only began when we ask the right questions, when we seek God in search of the truth & after realising this truth, we are set free.

Many of us who are reading this article are saved, but it is our duty to ignite these questions among those who are not saved & are lost.

What if I am not saved? How do I get saved?

What does it mean to be saved?

How do I know I am saved?

Can my salvation be taken away if I fell into sin again?

What do I know about end times, what is the rapture & second coming of Christ?

How do I prepare for that? What is my role & purpose?

These are the questions we should really be asking to ourselves and discussed with our brothers and sisters.

Then you realise Christmas was all about this. Jesus was born for this very reason, to save us from sin that we have the eternal relationship with God forever and ever. May Lord God help you to ignite this passion & curiosity of God's word in others & may you continue to seek Him diligently. Have a meaningful Christmas! 🎄

