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It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Galatians 5:1



Find your Freedom in Christ


Major Evama Shaijuraj, Editor

WI refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality. I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality." — Martin Luther King Jr., Nobel Peace Prize 1964 acceptance speech.

The Manipur issue has become a concern not only for the country but also for the world. Many innocent people were killed, villages destroyed and houses, churches were burned to ashes and there is no end to the misery. When political parties' agendas seem bigger than the lives of innocent people, who can solve these issues? We should afraid the silence of ruling party than the mentality of attackers. When the dignity of women and children destroyed, who can justify this kind of violence? How big is the inaction of government, when those who harassed the women walk in front of them with the heads up? Opportunistic indifference that gives tacit permission to fight, kill and humiliate women!

As it is the greatest virtue in our life, everybody likes freedom. In Greek, this word mean to liberate or to exempt from liability. The freedom that Jesus gives is entirely different than any political or economic freedom. Once we are freed from the penalty and power of sin through cross, we become a different kind of slave and in that slavery, we find complete peace and true freedom. That is why some of the most oppressed people in history have had experienced complete freedom in Christ.

When Jesus sets you free, He takes away your death sentence. The penalty you deserved has been removed and you now have eternal life. It helps you to experience the love, to have joy, peace, and to enjoy life. Ephesians 2:10 says *"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."* One of the other reasons Christ has freed you is because He has work for you to do. He has a plan for your life. *"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."*

We have to 'put off' the old self and 'put on' new self with its righteousness, kindness, compassion and forgiveness. *"Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that."* — Martin Luther King Jr. 



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Independence – Freedom with Responsibility

With great joy we celebrate our independence and remember our heroes who fought for our freedom. As citizens of this country, we always remember the sacrifices our heroes made to give our country independence. The constitution of our country gives freedom to all its citizens to live in harmony with one another and prosper with dignity.

Real freedom is truly enjoyed when we use it responsibly. We have the government, whom we freely elected to lead our country. We have law and order, which help us make use of our freedom responsibly. That is the most important aspect of our freedom. In other words, we are free to be bound by law to be citizens of our country, and to be accountable and responsible to let others enjoy the freedom when we draw its benefits to the full.

We are proud of our country for its diversity of culture, traditions and religions. This should not make us divided, but united, living in harmony with one another. We are to use our freedom responsibly, so that another's freedom is not restricted.

Know Relevance of our Spiritual Freedom

We, the followers of Jesus, also know that Jesus has freed us from the bondage of sin and evil. Jesus said, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:34-36, NIV). Jesus had to pay the greatest cost to free us from the curse and power of evil. As Peter, the disciple of Jesus, describes in his letter, 'For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of

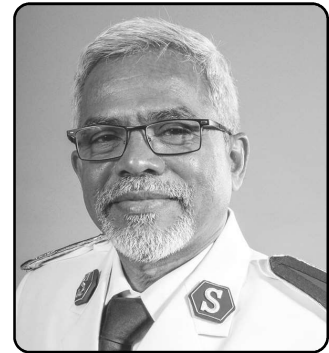
Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect' (1 Peter 1:18-19, NIV).

Our spiritual freedom should inform how we respond to the constitutional freedom of our country. During the last days of Jesus' ministry on earth, the Pharisees of that time wanted to trap him by proving that he was against the government. Their question was whether paying the poll-tax to the government was right or wrong. Jesus replied, "Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's (the Roman ruler at that time), and to God what is God's" (Matthew 22:15-22). Jesus teaches us to be legally responsible to our government, and spiritually accountable to God.

Consider Guidelines

Saint Paul provides us with powerful guidelines to emphasize how we are to use this freedom Jesus gave us responsibly. Here is what he says, 'You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness. I am using an example from everyday life because of your human limitation. Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness. When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord' (Romans 6:18-23, NIV).

Our spiritual freedom should empower us to use our country's constitutional freedom with higher commitment and love towards our fellow citizens. These days, as we experience tremendous tension between communities, it becomes



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more challenging for us as Christians, and even as soldiers of the Salvation Army, to live out our spiritual freedom in relation to the people around us. It requires our total submission to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who has called us to be witnesses of his death and resurrection, and stand firm in faith, demonstrating his love in us to the people around. As Saint Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth, 'Whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory ...' (2 Corinthians 3:16-18, NIV).

Be encouraged

As we take part in commemorating India's Independence Day, let me encourage you to be true citizens, making every effort to be responsible. Know that 'it is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery' (Galatians 5:1). 'Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love' (1 Corinthians 16:13-14). 🇮🇳

The Seeds of Mercy, Peace, Love

Bible: Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you (Jude 2 NKJV)

We are celebrating freedom this month. We are also enjoying the freedom of the country. This is political freedom and peace. We like freedom and peace. We are the agents of divine freedom and peace.

We, the followers of Christ are sowing the seeds of Mercy, Peace, and Love for others. Let it sprout and grow up. We are planting the most important plant in other's life, let its roots grow deeper and deeper to get the real fruits – the fruits of love and peace.

We ought to implement in our daily living to multiply these three key factors. These are the seeds to grow in our Corps, our community, to plant in your working place, and to manure and to water it carefully. Let mercy, peace, and love be increasing day by day amongst the Salvationists and the believers.

Anything which are against these three factors is the material of Satan. They are

the weapons of the devil. We must always encourage good teamwork, cooperation, unity, and motive. Do not allow Satan to have a place in you.

What a beautiful tree it will be if the seeds of mercy, peace, and love are sprouting and growing up in us! May the Holy Spirit bring you more mercy, peace, and love from God, and may others receive your fruits. 🌱



Colonel Vanlalafela
Territorial Commander
India Northern Territory



International News

Eket stadium funeral to follow fatal Nigeria accident

Following the tragic and fatal road accident in the Salvation Army Akwa Ibom South East Division, Nigeria, on 29 June 2023, Territorial Commander Commissioner Daniel Kasuso and Commissioner Tracey Kasuso (Territorial President of Women's Ministries) travelled to Akwa Ibom on 6th July with Lt. Colonels Joseph and Ngozi Mbagwu, Secretary for Personnel and Territorial Home League Secretary respectively.

Accompanied by Divisional leaders from the five Akwa Ibom State divisions, the territorial leaders visited each of the bereaved families to offer counsel and reassurance of God's continual love. Prayers and messages of hope and comfort were given in moments of sober reflection as the families of those promoted to Glory (passed away) shared their feelings with the commissioners. There was consensus for a mass funeral service to be held on 28 July at Eket Stadium.

Commissioner Daniel Kasuso established a committee to arrange the funerals, made up of Salvationists, divisional leaders serving in Akwa Ibom and representatives of the bereaved families, and coordinated by Major Udo Uwak, Divisional Commander, Akwa Ibom South East. The number of mourners expected to attend the funeral is between three and four thousand.

Immediately after the funeral service, each casket will be conveyed to its respective home for a brief committal, with officers assigned to perform each ceremony.

The territorial leaders acknowledge the support of General Brian Peddle in assigning Commissioners Keith and Yvonne Conrad (respectively International Secretary and Zonal Secretary for Women's Ministries, Africa Zone, International Headquarters) to represent him at the massed service of those promoted to Glory.

PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO MOURN

Salvationists of the Akwa Ibom South East Division are grateful to their international leaders and the global Salvation Army for their concern, prayerful support and encouragement, and request that the Army world remains in prayer for all those who mourn the loss of loved ones.

Officers promoted to Glory include:

Major Unyime Ekere – Afaha Eket Corps
Major Mary Ekere – Afaha Eket Corps
Major Sunday Sampson – Ikot Uso Ekeong Corps
Major Ofonime Sampson – Ikot Uso Ekeong Corps
Major Emem Friday Obot – Ndukpoise Corps
Lieutenant Nseobong Obot – Ndukpoise Corps
Captain Edet Umana – Oron Corps
Captain Mfonobong Umana – Oron Corps

Major Emem Udobong – Akai Children's Home
Lieutenant Margaret Udoh – Ikot Eyo Corps
Lieutenant James Etukakpan – Ete Corps

Also promoted to Glory in the accident were the driver, Christian Etukakpan (a brother of the late Lieutenant James Etukakpan) and Gabriella James Etukakpan (the 17 month-old daughter of Lieutenant James and Blessing Etukakpan). All officers promoted to Glory as a result of the accident are survived by children.

The territorial leaders visited survivors Majors Peace and Ijioma Ikpatt (Afia Nsit Eket Corps) following their discharge from hospital, although both remain unwell. Major Peace Ikpatt had assisted surviving officers to safety at the scene of the accident. The commissioners will also visit Lieutenant Blessing James Etukakpan (Ete Corps) and Lieutenant Nsima Sunday Udoh (Ikot Eyo Corps), who are being treated at the University of Benin Teaching Hospital.

The international Salvation Army requests continued prayers for the bereaved and injured. 🌱

IHQ Communications, based on a report prepared by Lieut-Colonel Christian Azubuike

Do You Desire freedom?



Who will not desire to have freedom in life? Commonly many want freedom in their life. Freedom is very much desired by the individuals, groups and the nations to express their needs, their wishes, and their opinions. Freedom or liberty, are the words that have become dear to many. Battles were fought and movements were led to get freedom for their countries from occupations by foreign rulers.

Struggle for Freedom :

As Indians we celebrate August 15 as the Independence Day to commemorate freedom won by us from the British rule under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi in 1947. He led the freedom movement by twin principles of Truth and Non-violence. His contemporary Rabindramath Tagore too wanted independence for India, but he did not desire not only freedom from foreign rule, but also desired that his countrymen be committed to truth, noble thoughts, and actions and freedom from all kinds of corruptions in their lives.

Truth Is Freedom :

Lord Jesus Christ revealed taught those who believed him, by saying *"If you hold to my teaching you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free"* John 8:31. As the descendants of Abraham the Israelites felt proud of them and told Jesus that they never have been slaves to anyone. Jesus Christ corrected their understanding of freedom that everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Even today people believe in possessing abilities that will earn money, status and

recognition by which one can have freedom to make choices. But God urges by His word that the choices have to be "whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy" Philippians 4:8.

Lord Jesus Christ is Truth :

From the beginning of the creation truth had been twisted and disregarded and even suppressed by the Devil and those who did not believe and love God. Adam and Eve in spite of blessed by God and given freedom to eat from the garden of Eden except from the tree of knowledge of good and evil which if they eat will die, yet they believed Devil and the lie told by him. Apostle Paul declared that *"the wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness"* Romans 1:18

"If you hold to my teaching you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" John 8:31

Jesus Christ revealed who he is by saying "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life" and those who believe and accept him as their personal saviour will know the Truth which they dearly hold in their lives and will not sin. They always desire to know the

Truth which is Jesus and use the freedom given by Him for His glory.

For Freedom Christ Set You Free

Once you turned from the old way of life and began and became the follower of Jesus you will realize that "It is for freedom that Christ has set us (all who



Commissioner (Dr.) P. Devavaram (Rtd.)
India Central Territory

believe and love) free" Galatians 5:1. The Spirit of God urges you, to stand firm in the truth and not let yourself allow lies and all sinful ways to become once again to become slave? It is for a life of freedom to love Him and others that God saves you.

Dear brother and sister as you read or listen and meditate God's word and pray, Holy Spirit will help you how to love God and love others that include fellow believers more and more.

Do you desire to know Jesus, the Truth and follow Him to be set free from slavery of sin? Do you desire to live in freedom?

Desire and choose freedom by believing and becoming a follower of Jesus, the Truth. The grace of God be upon you



Freedom

Freedom is the power or right to act, speak, and change as one wants without hindrance or restraint. Freedom is often associated with liberty and autonomy in the sense of "giving oneself one's own laws".

"For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another" (Galatians 5:13).

As we are going to observe the Independence Day celebration on 15th August. Let us remember our freedom fighters who sacrifice their possessions for our Nation India. We too salute the freedom fighters who gave their life for getting freedom for India.

One of our Salvation Army's Chorus says the following:

Glory to God, he has ransomed me,
I am free, I am free!
Free from the bondage and power of wrong
Now in my heart is a glad new song,
Free from the shame and sense of sin
Out in the open I walk with him!
O Praise his name, he has ransomed me
I am free, I am free!
No more the servant of sin to be,
Now I am Free! [TSA Chorus sec157]

Here, we shall think of freedom in a biblical way that reminds us of what does it mean to us?

SPIRITUAL DISOBEDIENCE LEADS TO PHYSICAL CAPTIVITY

From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible explores the theme of the search for freedom. Within the first three chapters of the creation account, humanity chose to rebel against God, forfeiting its freedom. The absolute freedom that God had established in the Garden of Eden was no longer there at that point, and both bodily and spiritual consequences followed.

Physical freedom was frequently forfeited for spiritual transgressions like false deity worship. However, time and time again, the one true God pardoned His people and came to their aid. God foreshadowed the entrance of Jesus Christ, who came to free humanity from sin—the spiritual slavery that results in death—when He delivered the Israelites from captivity in Egypt.

Many individuals nowadays are unaware that they are in spiritual servitude. They seek after false gods of wealth, prosperity, and comfort for themselves just to

GOD'S ANSWER TO OUR LOSS OF FREEDOM

Jesus declared He was the one God's people had been waiting for ever since humanity fell when He started his brief earthly ministry. He accomplished this by reciting a specific passage from the book of Isaiah, which, as his audience was aware, made reference to the Messiah or Saviour of the World.

The lines, which were written some hundred years prior, foretold of an upcoming new freedom. Jesus was stating that the future had come to pass as He got up to read. He would bring about liberty.

"He also received the prophet Isaiah's scroll. He located the writing and unrolled the scroll to reveal it. 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.'

He then sat down after rolling up the scroll and returning it to the attendant. And he was the centre of attention for everyone in the synagogue. And he started to tell them, 'Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.' (Luke 4:17–21, emphasis added).

JESUS CAME TO FREE US FROM DEATH AND SIN

The Salvation Army's 6th Doctrine teaches "We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has by His suffering and death made an atonement for the whole world so that whosoever will may be saved.

The gospel, which is the central message of the Christian faith, declares that Jesus Christ frees us from the bonds of sin and provides lasting freedom both in this life and in the next. Jesus stated the following:

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



Lt. Colonel G. Christopher Selvanath

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Secretary For Business Administration
India South-Eastern Territory

The Good News—the best news ever—is that through faith in Jesus, we are delivered from the death we deserve as a result of our transgressions against God. It absolves us of the punishment that would otherwise be meted out to us upon death as a result of the bad things we've thought and done.


Christians still struggle with sin, but they are no longer its masters. Christ's power enables His followers to be freed from the shackles of sin, including gluttony, selfishness, addiction, abuse, vanity, pride, and pornography. Jesus said the following regarding the freedom He provides:

"If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31-32).

GOD GIVES US THE FREEDOM TO CHOOSE OUR OWN PATH

God made people, not machines. The freedom He provides us in Jesus Christ is not something we have to accept. Each individual has the freedom to accept or reject God's offer of redemption. However, the Bible cautions that when people wilfully reject the truth, they will perish in a real location called hell.

"For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another" (Galatians 5:13).

The Salvation Army also fighting against human trafficking, racism, modern slavery, child abuse, etc for humanity's freedom. From cover to cover, God's Word points to freedom in Christ. And God doesn't leave us wondering how to seize hold of the freedom He promises. It starts with identifying our brokenness and admitting we are captives of sin. And it finishes with choosing Jesus and following Him daily. Only He can shatter the ties of servitude and bring us to true freedom, now and forever. 

Purity in Christ

Introduction:

In a world filled with moral compromise and impurity, the concept of purity holds great significance in the Christian faith. Purity in Christ goes beyond mere physical cleanliness; it encompasses a state of spiritual wholeness, righteousness, and moral integrity. This article explores the importance of purity in the life of a believer, the transformative power of Christ's purity, and practical steps to cultivate and maintain purity in our daily walk with Him.

The Source of Purity:

As Christians, we understand that true purity originates from God Himself. In His nature, God is holy and pure, and He calls us to reflect His character in our lives. The Bible teaches us that it is through our relationship with Jesus Christ, who is the embodiment of purity, that we can experience cleansing, forgiveness, and transformation from our sinful nature.

The Transformative Power of Christ's Purity:

Jesus Christ, the sinless Son of God, came into the world to redeem us from sin and to restore us to a state of purity. Through His sacrificial death on the cross, He paid the price for our sins and offers us forgiveness and a new life in Him. When we accept Christ as our Savior, His purity covers us, and we are made righteous in God's sight.

Living a Life of Purity:



God is holy and pure, and He calls us to reflect His character in our lives

Embracing purity in Christ involves both a positional and practical aspect.

Positionally, we are declared pure through our faith in Jesus Christ. Practically, we are called to live out this purity in our thoughts, actions, and relationships. Here are a few practical steps to help us cultivate and maintain purity in Christ:

Guarding our Minds:

We must be intentional about what we allow into our minds. This includes being selective with the media we consume, choosing wholesome entertainment, and filling our minds with God's Word. Philippians 4:8 encourages us to dwell on things that are true, noble, pure, and praiseworthy.



Major Bharat Hiwale

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Cultivating a Prayerful Life:

Regular prayer keeps us connected to God and strengthens our spiritual life. Through prayer, we can seek God's guidance, confess our sins, and ask for His help in overcoming temptations that may lead us astray from purity.


Fostering Accountability:

Surrounding ourselves with fellow believers who share our commitment to purity can provide support and accountability. By engaging in transparent relationships, we can encourage one another, share struggles, and hold each other accountable to live in accordance with God's standards.

Pursuing Holiness:

Striving for holiness involves making conscious choices to obey God's commandments and follow His teachings. It requires surrendering our desires and aligning our will with God's will. As we yield to the Holy Spirit's guidance, He empowers us to live a life that honors God and reflects His purity.

Conclusion:

Purity in Christ is not an unattainable ideal but a transformative reality available to every believer. As we embrace the purity that Christ offers, we experience forgiveness, restoration, and a renewed sense of purpose. Let us strive to walk in purity, allowing God's transformative power to work in us, and be a testimony of His grace and holiness in a world longing for true purity. 

Independence in Christian Life



Captain Latha Cheeli

Secretary for Education, Youth & Children
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Independence holds a significant value in the life of a Christian. It encompasses freedom from worldly constraints, sin, and dependency on external factors. The Bible emphasizes the concept of independence, urging believers to seek a relationship with God that empowers them to live a life of freedom and purpose. These concepts are not understood solely in terms of worldly notions of personal autonomy, but rather in the context of the believer's relationship with God and the redemptive work of Jesus Christ. In Christianity, freedom is intricately tied to liberation from the bondage of sin. The Bible teaches that all humans are born into a state of sin and are separated from God. However, through faith in Jesus Christ, believers are set free from the guilt and consequences of sin. This freedom allows Christians to experience reconciliation with God, receive forgiveness, and embark on a new life empowered by the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Living in the world, Christians often face pressures and influences that can hinder their spiritual growth. However, God calls believers to be separate from the ways of the world (Romans 12:2). Independence in the Christian life means not conforming to the patterns of the world but instead transforming through the renewing of one's mind. This independence allows Christians to make choices based on biblical principles rather than societal norms, enabling them to live a life that aligns with God's will. Christian

independence involves being liberated from the corrupting influences of the world. Independence from worldly influences means not being swayed by the transient values, materialism, or sinful practices prevalent in society. Instead, Christians are called to be transformed and guided by the principles of God's kingdom, seeking His righteousness above all else.

True independence in the Christian life comes from developing a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ. The Bible encourages believers to seek God with their whole hearts, experiencing His presence and receiving guidance directly from Him. This independence enables Christians to rely on God's wisdom, strength, and provision rather than depending solely on human understanding or earthly resources. Christian independence is rooted in having a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Independence does not imply isolation or self-reliance, but rather a deep dependence on God as the source of true freedom. Through faith in Jesus, believers become children of God, able to approach Him with confidence and enjoy a personal connection with the Creator.

As Christians grow in their faith, they become more confident in making decisions in alignment with God's Word. Independence in decision-making involves seeking God's guidance, studying the Scriptures, and listening to the Holy Spirit's prompting. Christian independence also encompasses the ability to make decisions

in alignment with God's will. Rather than being driven by personal desires or societal pressures, believers seek to discern God's guidance through prayer, studying His Word, and listening to the leading of the Holy Spirit. This independence in decision-making is grounded in a desire to honor God and pursue His purposes, even when it may differ from popular opinions or worldly wisdom.

Christian freedom and independence are intimately connected to the pursuit of spiritual growth and transformation. As believers grow in their faith, they experience increasing freedom from the power of sin and a deepening relationship with God. This freedom enables Christians to bear spiritual fruit, exhibit the character of Christ, and fulfill their God-given purpose. It is through this ongoing process of sanctification that Christians become truly liberated to live abundantly and serve others selflessly.

As we recollect and celebrate the Independence Day in India, we must carefully think and oblige our commitment as Christians to be dependent on Christ alone for our eternal journey can only be possible with Him. Freedom and independence in the Christian view extend beyond mere personal autonomy or liberation from external constraints. Christian freedom is ultimately found in surrendering to God's loving authority and discovering true liberation in Christ. 🇮🇳

What is most important?

Luke 10: 40 -42



Captain Laldinmawii

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Central South Division, India Eastern Territory

backslid and fell into the deep pit of the world because they worry too much, and they don't give importance to being with the Lord.

Have you ever thought that being born again is also compared with the bride and the groom. Do you know who has a marriage certificate and does not pay attention to his/her partner? To have a successful marriage it is important to stay together, live together and have a good relationship with each other.

Likewise, as Jesus sweetly called us his bride, we Christians should obey and be with Jesus Christ in any situation instead of worrying too much as our relationship is compared with that of the Bride and the Groom in the Bible. So, we have to stay close to Jesus our groom. We should know that being with Jesus is the most important thing in our life. If we don't give importance to our relationship with Christ, Our Spiritual life will go backward and also be very harmful to our life.

"But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had been made". She came to him and asked, "Lord don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself?" Tell her to help me! Martha, Martha, "the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her". (Luke 10: 40 – 42) 📖

There are lots of priorities in our life, whatever we valued stays with us. Likewise, we believers should really understand clearly what we need and important for our Christian life. What we chose will greatly impact our life.

When we look at the scriptures, we see Mary and Martha when they received Jesus and His Disciples in their home. Martha was busy cooking while Mary her sister was sitting at Jesus's feet. So, Martha wasn't happy when she was too busy. She requested Jesus to tell her sister to help her in the kitchen. However, Jesus replied, there's only one thing important *"to sit at His feet"*. What I want to mention is, what Jesus says important 'that is to be at his feet'.

We have lots of importance in our life; financial security to sustain us is important but this is not what Jesus said is important. Jesus knows what we need more than us. We just have to trust him in any situation in our lives. When we put our trust in him, he can bless us more than we could imagine. *"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all*

these things shall be added to you". (Matthew 6:33) So we have to give importance to what the Lord says, then the problems and worries of our life will be solved.

What Martha did was also important, providing sumptuous food and giving their guest good hospitality. She must have thought it all the important things for their guess. But Jesus simply told her that she was too busy thinking about many things. It might be also important, but Mary got the best shared. That is to sit at Jesus' feet. So, whatever we go through in our busy lives, the most important and what we can do best

"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you".

Matthew 6:33

is to be at 'Jesus Feet' which is the best place to be. We should make time to listen to His voice so that we can face any matters in any situation.

We might have done or thought about doing good things yet missed out to sit with Jesus, this would make no sense. So, Jesus says that being with Him is the good part. 'Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? (Matthew 6:27). So, when we worry too much, we invite lots of trouble. So, let's us never be afraid to go to Jesus. Some of the members

Therefore be **MERCIFUL**

Just as your father also is Merciful

Mercy' is seen as one of God's qualities. It demonstrates different facets of God's compassion for his people. We frequently claim that God is merciful to us. Yes, that's accurate. Father God is compassionate. *'His mercy endureth forever'* (Psalm 106:1)

GOD'S MERCY IS JUSTIFIED AND GOODNESS:

God's verdict demonstrates His justice. His justice takes on moral injustice. God's goodness is manifest in His mercy. He tackles human suffering and guilt with his goodness. On the cross, Jesus, the Son of God, reconciled God's kindness and justice. God is just and merciful. He punished Jesus on the cross for us instead of punishing us with the death penalty for our sin. God's compassion for our unmet needs is revealed by the accomplished work on the cross. Those who call on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ are shown abundant mercy by the merciful God. We could have a relationship with God thanks to His mercy. God expects us to show people the same mercy in return.

GOD IS MERCIFUL IN NUMEROUS WAYS:

God adores His creation. He looks after them. They are constantly under His heavenly care. He never loses sight of or abandons His people. Lot, his wife, and daughter were literally taken out of Sodom and Gomorrah by two angels before the city was destroyed. (Genesis 19:16-26). God spared them from the destruction of those towns out of mercy for them. God is a forgiving God. He will not desert you. (Deuteronomy 4:31). Because of his mercy, God is unable to completely consume or abandon people. God is God, gracious and merciful (Nehemiah 9:31). God is a merciful God who restores us with righteousness, salvation, peace, truth, mercy, and other wonderful things. (Psalms 85:1-13)

GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY REDEEM US:

God throughout the years redeems and

gently cares for Israel out of love and mercy. (Isaiah 63:9). God is always merciful (Jeremiah 3:12). Even if we rebelled against Him, His mercy always pardons us. (Daniel 9:9). Mary Mother of Jesus declared in her song, 'His mercy on those, who fear Him' (St. Luke 1:50). According to St. Paul's letter, it is God's mercy that demonstrates and emphasises the necessity for us to offer our bodies via the mercies of God as a Holy and Acceptable Living Sacrifice to God.' (Romans 9:16; 12:1). Because of His merciful nature, God loved us, set us free, and raised us up. (Ephesians 2:4-6). God's mercy in our salvation allowed Him to save us, cleanse us for regeneration, and regenerate the Holy Spirit in our life. (Titus 3:5).

GOD'S MERCY IS GREAT:

Merciful God is merciful. God's disposition is one of mercy. It really is wonderful. King David in a desperate situation occurred in his life said to God (Frequently used to advise David as Prophet) 'I am in great distress. Please let us fall in the hands of the Lord, for His mercies are great but do not let me fall into the hands of man' (II Samuel 24:14). God's mercy is everlasting to everlasting (Psalm 103:17).

GOD'S MERCY SACRIFICES HIS SON:

Because of His mercy, God offered His son



Rev. Dr. N. L. Victor

O.F., CSM

Hyderabad Temple Corps, India Central Territory


Jesus as a sacrifice on the cross to atone for our sins. Jesus satisfied the debt of sin. According to St. Paul, *"He who did not spare His own son, but delivered Him up for us all, shall He not also with Him freely give us all things."* (Romans 8:32).

GOD EXPECTS US TO SHOW MERCY ON OTHERS:

The Bible clearly instructs its readers to be merciful to one another. When someone doesn't show us mercy, we must show mercy to them. The parable of Good Samaritan reveals this fact. In this parable Jesus asked the lawyer 'so which of these there do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves'. The lawyer replied and said, 'He who showed mercy on him' (St. Luke 10:25-37).

Jesus said to His followers. "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful'. He also says, love your enemies, do good to them those who hate us. Bless them those who curse us. Pray for those who spitefully use us. As you want others to do to you, you do to them like wise.

Despite all the advantages that God bestows upon believers, they do not always enjoy their lives. They ought to share their blessing with others in need. God did not intend for us to hoard all of his blessings only for ourselves. We should part them with others. St. Paul also said, *"do not grow weary in doing good"* (II Thessalonians 3:13).

Dear revered readers, show mercy to others as you have received God's great mercy. God's blessings are upon you. 

Independence

The Indian Independence movement was a fiery and daring crusade against the chains of British colonialism. It was a majestic symphony of bravery and tenacity, orchestrated by the visionary leaders who championed the cause of the Indian people. Their resolute resolve reverberates through the annals of time, serving as a poignant reminder of the monumental sacrifices that paved the path to our liberation. In this grand tale, we find solace in our profound faith, for it is the celestial power that has guided and elevated us on this challenging voyage.

"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." (Galatians 5:1 from the NIV).

Galatians 5:1 boldly declares that Christ has liberated us for the sake of freedom, urging us to stand strong and never again succumb to the chains of enslavement. This verse resonates with the very essence of liberation and the limitless possibilities it brings. Independence is a treasured gem in the crown of our society.

We commemorate 15th August as a sacred day of independence, praising the virtues of self-reliance and autonomy. Galatians 5:1 echoes this sentiment, reminding us that Christ has unshackled us from the burdens of bondage and urging us to never bear the weight of enslavement again.

This yoke of slavery can manifest in various forms, such as addiction, fear, or any other restraints that hinder our journey toward self-fulfilment. When we are entangled in these afflictions, we are not truly free. Our own limitations become formidable barriers, obstructing our path to reaching our utmost potential.

However, Galatians 5:1 serves as a guiding light of hope and encouragement. It reminds us that we possess the power to break the chains that confine us. By standing firm in our faith and entrusting ourselves to the divine guidance of Christ, we embark on a transformative journey toward genuine independence.

Galatians 5:1 serves as a poignant reminder of the profound significance of independence and the boundless freedom it bestows upon us. We must not allow ourselves to be ensnared by the yoke of slavery, but rather stand resolute in our faith and trust in Christ to lead us towards authentic emancipation.

As we commemorate the glorious liberation of our beloved nation, let us not forget that our unwavering loyalty lies with the divine, the celestial force that guides our every step. Just as Romans 13:1 gently whispers in our ears, we are reminded to humbly submit to the authority figures, for they are divinely appointed to lead us. This divine decree encourages us to faithfully obey the laws of our land, understanding that they are ordained by a higher power.

The Indian Independence movement stands as a shining testament to the significance of adhering to the principles of our government, even in the face of adversity. The valiant leaders of this movement chose the path of non-violence, refusing to succumb to the chaos and anarchy that often accompanies revolution. However, let us not turn a blind eye to the imperfections of our government, for it is composed of mere mortals who are prone to err. As devout followers of Christ, it is our sacred duty to champion justice and righteousness, fearlessly speaking up for what is right and holding our leaders accountable when they veer off the righteous path. So, as we joyously celebrate the independence of our great nation, let us always remember our unbreakable allegiance to the divine, our unwavering commitment to obeying those in power, and our solemn responsibility to tirelessly advocate for a society that is just and righteous in every way.

"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8 from the NIV).

Independence, that cherished treasure coveted by souls around the world, represents the audacity to carve our own unique path, liberated from the chains of external influence. Yet, let us not overlook the fact that even this noble virtue can cast a shadow. Unchecked, it can breed seclusion, self-centeredness, and haughtiness. Lo and behold, nestled within the sacred scriptures lie a verse that has reverberated through the ages, resonating with countless souls in countless ways.

Micah 6:8 unveils a divine revelation, a roadmap to what is genuinely good. It poses a question, a query from the Almighty Himself: What is demanded of us? The answer, my dear companions, lies in three profound actions: to act with fairness, to embrace compassion, and to tread humbly alongside our Creator. This verse, akin to a luminous beacon, has ignited the hearts of many, compelling them to lead lives adorned with integrity, empathy, and modesty.



Saupriya Solanki

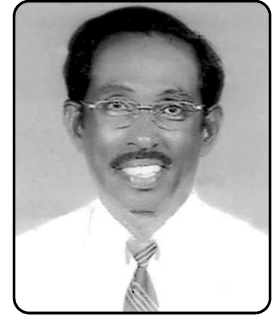
Pandoli Corps, Petlad Division
India Western Territory

Embracing compassion, dear friends, is a summons to envelop others in understanding and forgiveness, even when it appears undeserved. It necessitates that we acknowledge our own imperfections and vulnerabilities, extending grace to those who cross our path. Independence, if left unchecked, can sometimes dull our capacity for empathy, blinding us to the struggles of others. But if we genuinely embrace compassion, we will utilise our independence to support and uplift, rather than tear down.

And finally, treading humbly alongside God, a profound act of surrender and acknowledgment. It is a recognition that we are but a minuscule fragment of a magnificent design, guided by a higher power. It demands that we remain receptive to learning from others, humbly accepting our own limitations. Independence, if left untamed, can breed conceit and arrogance. But if we choose to tread humbly alongside God, we will wield our independence to serve others and honour the divine. Micah 6:8 presents us with a profound framework, a roadmap to pursuing independence in a just and humble manner. By acting with fairness, embracing compassion, and treading humbly alongside God, we can harness the power of our independence to promote the common good and serve our fellow beings. Independence, indeed, is a precious gift, but it must be harmonised with other virtues to truly hold significance and fulfillment.

As we revel in the jubilant festivities of Independence Day, let us not only merely reminisce about the valiant sacrifices of our revered ancestors who valiantly fought for our independence, but also acknowledge that our true emancipation springs forth from our unwavering devotion to the divine presence of Christ. Let us proudly champion the cause of fairness and virtue within our beloved nation, ever cognizant that our ultimate loyalty rests with the Almighty. 🇮🇳

Inter relations of Faith and Prayer



John Chellaiya (M.A.)
Central Corps, Adoor Division
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What is Faith and What is Prayer?

Whereas scholars have defined Faith and Prayer. I am not endeavouring to give any more definition for Faith and Prayer, except that both of them are unavoidable for success and satisfaction in Christian Life. Now Let us discuss some salient features of these inevitable aspects which determine the quality and calibre of every believer in Jesus Christ.

Faith and Prayer are interrelated, both of them are complementary to each other as they are reciprocally dependent in spiritual affairs. Prayer without faith is inactive and meaningless, ineffective and useless, like consuming food without being digested. Likewise, Faith is motionless and powerless if it is devoid of Prayer. Certain Scholars of Logic have misinterpreted faith to be a make-belief of anything which is hardly conceivable as truth and Reality. Belief is also misinterpreted in relation to faith. They argue that in case anything is hard to be recognized as Truth, it is taken to be believed that there is nothing evident to convince it with physical proof or material evidence.

What is the need for Faith?

Faith is necessary to please God. Without Faith, no one can obtain recognition from God Yet, faith alone is not sufficient to be accepted by God, because Faith without Prayer and works is almost dead or inactive. However, it does not mean that good deeds and righteous activities can please God and obtain recognition. Genuine Faith and righteous works can please God. They should go hand in hand for the healthy, happy, and hearty communion of the brethren in a Christian congregation. Christianity is the amalgamation of Holiness and Heavenly Happiness co-existing in worship. Prayer and Holy lifestyle of the members in a

Christian Church (Read Romans 10: & 17; Hebrews 11:1, 6 & 7; James 5:15, etc)

Apostle Paul Vs Apostle James?

Apostle Paul is reckoned as the 13th Apostle, as he came into the school of the Apostles some years after the ascension of Lord Jesus Christ into Heaven. Paul was selected by the Lord to convey the Gospel to many countries outside of the Land of Israel; Soon he become an Apostle for the Lord. As a scholar himself Academic Education under the famous Professor, Gamaliel of the University of Alexandria, Paul taught the word of God vehemently and authoritatively, with excellence in spiritual knowledge and wisdom. Apostle Peter, the most prominent of the Apostles wrote about Paul in the 2nd Epistle of Peter Chapter 3, verses 15 through 16, that Paul had written several serious spiritual sermons, which are incomprehensible for the spiritually ignorant and instable in spirituality.



Apostle Paul argued logically and spiritually that Faith is the basement of salvation consisting of Conviction, Confession, Contrition, and Conversion mentally and spiritually. He declared vehemently that without faith, no one can be saved. He gave more prominence to Faith than Works, for Salvation. On the contrary, Apostle James argued that faith without works is dead and that it is insufficient, ineffective, and meaningless without works. In the Epistle of James, Chapter 2, verses 17 through 20, the Apostle demanded reasonably to execute proper spiritual works to materialize one's Faith and Belief.

Nevertheless, Apostle Paul argued systematically and spiritually that good deeds and righteous works cannot please God. He ascertained that good deeds and activities of righteous works cannot please God. He ascertained devoid of Faith will not bring forth spiritual fruits Apostle Paul gave more importance to faith than to works.

What is the inter relation of Faith and Prayer?

Prayer is the link of every person with God. It joins man to God. Some people say that Prayer is a bridge between Man and God. It symbolizes that there is a distance between Man and God, but it can be bridged up by Prayer.

Now let us conclude that Prayer must be the embodiment of faith. Above all we should bear in mind that we can pray to God directly without any mediator Besides it is reliable that anyone can pray directly to God. May God bless you. 🇮🇳



THE WAR CRY

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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 fulness of life in a relationship with the living Christ discovered through the scriptures and demonstrated by holy living in peace and harmony with others."

The Chosen

Am I one of His chosen people? No direct commandment I've ever got to follow him, then maybe I'm not. This perception with the above question, a lot of people, including me, wonder about and thus keep on struggling to find their purpose here on this Earth. What exactly should be done or required, to be among his followers? Am I even the deserving one? I used to contemplate these thoughts without having the knowledge of what being 'Chosen' means. However, now I am aware that our mere existence in itself proves that we are Chosen. No being has the power to live and perform tasks if God doesn't allow it. Thus, if we, here, are the contributors to spreading his love, teachings, and thoughts, then we are among those 'Chosen' people. Not everyone is so lucky as to identify this true and sole purpose on the Earth, but those who do, are indeed showered with his grace and blessings that make them 'his followers'.


There is a verse in the Holy Bible affirming that not only by enchanting prayers and calling aloud his name, but we also worship or serve him, rather the deeds we perform for others, which make us 'his people'. Colossians 3:23-24, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving." The most beautiful explanation, I would like to



Miss Razia Masih
Doha, Qatar

bring ahead is, we do not become true Christians by publicising Christianity, whether in terms of preaching, praying, or offering sacrifices. Instead, showing our humanity, embedded in us, being a human being for other fellow beings, result in confirming that we belong to him. Therefore, being a Christian makes us no different if we are not devoted and willing followers of 'his words'.

The talents gifted by our Lord above, when due to impotence, not used for him, become burdensome, sometimes. No matter how melodious someone sounds or effectively puts down heartfelt emotions, carries guilt and shame, unless and until make use of them for our Heavenly Father. But even here, patience is the key, because procrastination often results in bringing unexpected outcomes, which even overweight the greater works, we hoped or dreamt for our saviour, Lord Jesus Christ.

Summing up this article, only this could be put forth that we all are chosen ones if give ourselves in the hands of God and lead our lives the way he has always visioned for the human generation. 



128 ANNIVERSARY OF INDIA CENTRAL TERRITORY

We Praise and thank God for this Great Historical day in our Territory. We have Celebrated 128th Anniversary of India Central Territory at THQ on 20 July 2023 at 8 am. Under the Kind leadership of our beloved Chief Secretary Lt. Colonel M. Stalin and Lt. Colonel Y. S. Keziah Stalin, TSWM.

Lt. Colonel B. G. Prakash Rao Secretary for Personnel Administration led this meeting. Opening Song "O Boundless Salvation" was led by Lt. Colonel M. Abraham Lincoln Secretary for Program Administration. The Chief Secretary hoisted the Flag and told about the Origin and Development of The Salvation Army in ICT. He praised and Thank God for the Great Sacrificial services of the Pioneers Staff Capt Abdul Aziz, Staff Captain Ameena Bai and Mahanada. The Pioneer Officers who stayed at Gandhi Hill of Vijayawada, from there he spread the Gospel of Christ through Open Air meetings, for postal correspondence he named his address as C/O Postmaster Vijayawada. The Pioneer Officers preached the Gospel and begged on the Roads for the Ministry and for their existence because there was no

allowances and grants for the Salvation Army in ICT. The Bible Portion Exodus 12:14 verse, he exhorted the word of God, Passover means exit from the bondage of slavery, the Israelites freed from the Bondage of Slavery by Emperor Pharaoh, Likewise our

ancestors once they were treated as a slaves by Higher Caste people of then India, and they were transformed into God and became the servants of God. The Chief Secretary highlighted the message as four points.

1. THIS DAY WE NEED TO COMMEMORATE: Exodus 12:14 tells this is a day you are to commemorate "We the Officers, Soldiers and friends should commemorate this day every year; we must thank God for the services during the Past.

2. WE NEED TO CELEBRATE THIS DAY AS FESTIVAL: Exodus 12:14 says you shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord". The Israelites they all celebrated their exit from Egypt as a Big Festival because they were freed from the four hundred years of slavery, like wise our forefathers they were freed from the sinful life, they were freed from Idle worship, they were transformed by the word of God and accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour, they became people of God, an account of that today we are here as officers, soldiers and employees. So we need to Celebrate this Historical day every year as Festival of Joy.

3. WE NEED TO REMEMBER THE SACRIFICES OF PIONEER OFFICERS : Our Pioneer Officers they shed they labour to develop the Salvation Army in Telugu Field, they never had allowances, they never had houses, they never had



proper rest, they never had proper communications and even though they did marvellous service. Our ICT Founder Staff Capt. Abdul Aziz once he went to USA and Canada to raise the Funds for India along with Commissioner Booth Tucker, they he shared his Personal Testimony and he explained his transformation from Muslim Community to Christ and his testimony attracted many foreigners. We need to edify our Generations about the History. With grateful hearts, we need serve more in the days to come.

4. WE NEED TO RENEW OUR DEDICATION: We need renew of Dedication to God, we need to evaluate our present services, with renewed Spirit and dedication, and we have to work hard for the development of our ICT in the days to come.

Finally, God established our Territory through Staff Capt Abdul Aziz, God gave us the great responsibilities to serve for HIM, today we are stand here to witness for God, each one have the responsibility to carry out our Army Flag into many places and we need to do our services with sincerity and Dedication. Thus, our Chief Secretary concluded his message. The Officers and Employees much inspired and blessed. Finally, Lt Colonel Y. S. Keziah Stalin, TSWM concluded this meeting with prayer and benediction. We give glory and honour to God.

GOD BLESS OUR INDIA CENTRAL TERRITORY. AMEN 🙏

Major C. Dani Samuel Raju
Editor, India Central Territory



Salvation Army Work in Thailand Officially Recognised

Following a meeting of The General's Council on 13 June 2023, General Brian Peddle has approved the official recognition of the commencement of the Army's work in the Kingdom of Thailand, making it the 134th country in which The Salvation Army has a legally and officially recognised ministry.

Although the process for registration of The Salvation Army as a legal entity began in 2016, it was only on 28 April 2023 that the government of Chiang Province approved the establishment of The Salvation Army, with the work in Thailand coming under the direction of the Singapore, Malaysia and Myanmar Territory.

PIONEERING WORK

The Salvation Army began to explore the possibility of ministry in the country during a visit to Chiang Mai, northern Thailand, in 2012.

Recognised as a developing country with a population approaching 70 million, a need for the saving gospel of Jesus Christ and the work of the Army

Majors Ken and Neva Phiouthong to initiate research and development, work that continued to advance under subsequent officers and lay personnel. There has been a worshipping community since 2015, with the joyful enrolment of soldiers under each leadership team.



The activities of The Salvation Army in studies, fundraising, fellowship events, men's fellowship gatherings and home visits.



Currently the corps (Church) has 15 senior soldiers, eight recruits for soldiership, five Sunday school participants, six corps council members, eight in the women's group and seven people attending online meetings.

GOD'S TIMING

We celebrate God's timing in officially opening the doors for The Salvation Army's work in Thailand. We march forward with grateful hearts to fulfil God's mission for the Army in the country. May he continue to lead and grant us wisdom as we seek to build a strong Salvation Army in Thailand. 🇹🇭

IHQ Communications based on a report by Colonel Hary Haran



Thailand have been diverse, including assisting flood victims, visiting prisons, and offering support to the homeless and those living in poverty. Other work to share the good news has included camps for underprivileged children, sports ministry, team and women's group Bible

was identified as, despite a strong economy, freedom of religion and open and friendly ties with the West, wealth and prosperity is enjoyed by some whilst others are still living in poverty.

Pioneering work in Chiang Mai was undertaken in August 2014 when International Headquarters appointed






Disaster Management Training at HRD Centre, Batala, INT
Organised by India National Office
from 9th & 10th June 2023



CONFERENCE OF WOMEN LEADERS, ISWT



objectives to protect the Children - Lt. Colonel Sonia Jacob, JDS and CP Officer. z. Qualities of a good woman - Lt. Colonel Mariyakutty Yohannan, THLS s. Prevention of lifestyle disease - Dr. Sheena Jose Manuel +. Communicative skills - Lt. Colonel Snehadeepam Saju JWDO s. How to challenge a better world - Major Jarvis Silas, TJHLS o. First Aid - Major Beena Rani Titto JMFS e(Gtr. \1 ruLt\$3 R 9., G; t During the meeting medical checkup had arranged for the delegates by the Women's ministry The report presentation from each division helped everyone to understand the activities of women's ministry in other divisions. The Final spiritual meeting was led by Lt. Colonel Rajam Daniel TSWM and the bible message was delivered by Col Ratna Sundari TPWM. TPWM spoke from Luke 10:38 - 42 and refers to Mary and Martha, as the best and better. In response to the heart-inspiring message each delegate kneels down and rededicates their lives. 

Based on the theme "WAY MAKER" the Conference of Women Leaders was conducted on 6th & 7th July 2023 at HRD Centre, Kowdiar, Trivandrum under the leadership of Colonel Ratnasundari Polimetla TPWM, supported by Lt. Colonel Rajam Daniel, TSWM. 16 delegates from various divisions and THQ took part in this conference. Major Huldamma Johnson DDWM Punalur, Major Mercy Simon DDWM Peermade, and Major

Mary Christuraj DDWM Neyyattinkara led the morning and evening devotions on the two days conference. The Bible study of these two female characters Lydia (Acts of Apostles) and Vasthi (The Book of Esther) presented in relation to contemporary events was very inspiring and influential for the participants of the two sessions of bible study led by TPWM and TSWM respectively. There were different topics presented by the women officers and faculties as follows: r. What are the

**Major Beena Ebenezer
DDWM, Mavelikkara
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