



The WAR CRY

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**"Where is the one who has been born
king of the Jews?
We saw his star when it rose and
have come to worship him"**

Matthew 2:2 (NIV)

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The National Office extends its
heartiest wishes to all the readers a

Blessed *Christmas & a Happy New Year!*




Inns without space!

Another season of Christmas is upon us, evoking memories of love, joy, and peace. The day our Saviour born, he opened a new door to goodness and guided the world to the light from the power of darkness and evil. Our world is full of attractions, but Jesus is the person who taught us that man does not need a lot of things to live. Jesus invites us to be the most ordinary people of this world. So, we should accept Christmas as a call for simplicity and humanity.

A generation that was taught, God is somewhere in the distance and that God will only love us if we observe certain things. But Christmas gave a complete change to this belief. The one who was exalted in heaven came down to earth as one of us to give peace and love to each one of us! Why? This is a fulfilment of God's promise. This happened to restore the God – human relationship that was lost in the Edenic paradise. Christmas asks us to restore the broken relationships. We must adopt the style of Jesus. He did not hold on to the God's likeness and took the form of a servant and was born in a stable. We should all be ready to be humbled to restore our broken relationships.

There was no space in the inn. Really, was it in the inn or in the hearts of the inn keepers that Jesus couldn't find a place? Jesus must find a place in the human mind first. When Herod heard of the birth of Jesus, he was troubled in his heart thinking that a child had been born as a threat to his authority. He could not spare a little space in his heart for that baby. Because knowledge does not save us. But the shepherds who waited in the valley of darkness for a Saviour are filled with joy when they hear this message. The discriminated people who have lived in the midst of social evils, corruptions, injustice and fanaticism are filled with joy when they received these words of hope. The wise men took this as the golden opportunity to be filled with God's grace and worshipped God and departed there in 'another way'.

Something incredible happened in the middle of World War 1 on 24th December 1914. Soldiers from Britain and Germany put down their weapons, stepped out of their trenches and really did meet the enemies between trenches. It was not an official 'cease fire' but only a 'Christmas Truce'. For a short time, there was peace. They shook hands, decorated the Christmas trees outside the trench, sang Christmas carols together, exchanged souvenirs, food and gifts each other. Their wish was that *'the guns may fall silent at least upon the night the angels sang!'* It is also a symbol of the Peace on earth and good will toward humans – unfortunately, so often lacking not just on the battle front but in our everyday life!

As nations continue to fight today and wonder if the world is headed for a third world war, we realize how important this Child of Peace is to find a space to be born in the hearts of the rulers of this world! When Cains ask If I am my brother's keeper? If brothers are pushing their own brothers into the pit of trap by cheating, when parents, siblings and spouse brutally kill each other, when a generation grows up with disharmony in family, society and personal relationships, this child should be born in our mind and not in the inn. Let a new awakening and new life happen in us by making a room for Christ! 

Merry Christmas to You All!!

Major Evama Shaijuraj
Editor



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THE GENERAL'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2022

When I consider the star that was a significant part of the first Christmas story, I'm reminded that scientists view the stars in the sky very differently than I do. For instance, they use light years to measure the distance of the stars from us on earth. A light year is the distance light travels in one earth year, so about 5.88 trillion miles (or 9.46 trillion kilometres).

The sun is our closest star and is some 93 million miles away. So, the sun's light takes about 8 minutes and 20 seconds to reach us, meaning we see the sun as it was more than 8 minutes ago. The next closest star to us – Alpha Centauri – is some 4.3 light years away, so when we view this star today, we see it as it was 4.3 years ago. It's as if we are looking back in time.

This means that the Magi written about in Matthew 2:1-2 would have seen a star whose light was beaming before they could even see it. And yet, God used that star to lead them to Jesus: *'Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him'* (Matthew 2:2 New Living Translation).

Jesus came to be the Light of the World. He came to shine his light in darkness – our

darkness, the darkness of this world. We read in Isaiah 9:2 (New International Version): *'The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.'* This was prophesied long before Jesus was born.

Are we talking about light years when it comes to Jesus? No, I don't think so, because the Bible tells us he is the alpha and omega – the beginning and the end. He is as much a bright light today as he was at the beginning of time, or when he came to the earth to take up residence and *'move into the neighborhood'* (John 1:14 The Message).

If you are seeking change, seek Jesus. If you are living in a dark place in life, seek him who is the Light of the World.

Jesus is not constrained by time. He is the *'light of the world'* (John 8:12) and shines light into the darkest places of our troubled world, bringing change. The Light has come! There are no light years that can separate us from this Light. He is here, he knows us, and we can walk and talk with him now. His purpose in coming was to be with us, but he has been, and always will be, with us.

If you do not know him already, you too can know this Light of the World. His name is Jesus, and he came to the world to bring about transformation. If you



General Brian Peddle

are seeking change, seek Jesus. If you are living in a dark place in life, seek him who is the Light of the World.

For those who already know Jesus, he reminds us that we are light in the world. In Matthew 5:14 (The Message) we read: *'You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill.'*

May you be a source of light in your corner of the world this Christmas, as you bring the Light of the World to others!

May God richly bless you throughout this Christmas season! 🍷



JESUS - HEAVEN'S JOY ON EARTH



Commissioner Suresh Pawar
International Secretary
South Asia, IHQ-London

Christmas is not a one-time in a year reminder of History, but an everyday joy for those who acknowledge God's revelation of His loving action in restoring the broken humanity of our world, by sending His only Son Jesus Christ, so that whosoever believes in Him will be saved.

In this age, Christmas is so commercialized that the truth of the celebration is missed regarding The King of Kings, the Lord of Lords, the Almighty God, the Creator of the universe coming to us in Jesus. Some deny, and some are still seeking, and some seek every opportunity to mislead and confuse. In such a world as ours, it is important and precious that we know the truth, accept the truth, and experience the heavenly Joy of our Saviour Jesus: born 2,000 years ago; living amongst the people of the earth; even being fully God, he denied his heavenly glory, took a most lowly life, suffered, died the most crucial death on the cross, was buried, but rose again on the third day, ascended to heaven to live forever, and will return to this world to establish His Kingdom forever (Philippians 2:5-11). He is living truth that brings true joy and meaning to our lives here on earth, encountering the living experience of the living God in our everyday life.

In Jesus, all the Old Testament prophecies have come true. The prophecy of Isaiah is one of them. Isaiah wrote this prophecy at least a hundred years before Israel was taken into Babylonian captivity - nearly 600 years before the birth of the Saviour! This is what he wrote, "For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace. He will reign on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this" (Isaiah 9:6-7).

The Bible declares, 'But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship' (Galatians 4:4-5, NIV). We rejoice because of what God has done through our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 5:11). We, therefore, can unceasingly celebrate the joy of heaven. We no longer need to search for any stars in the sky to search for this King of glory, or to travel so far to meet and worship Him. He is no more found in a

lowly manger, neither must he suffer anymore and die on the cross. It has all happened once and for all, and happened within God's own time. And now He is present right where we live. With only a simple prayer of faith we can invite him into our life. You will experience his presence, the heavenly truth, and find that joy that is beyond imagination.

When we encounter Jesus, we witness God's ruling power in the world as well as in our lives. As God incarnate, Christ is the source of all truth. Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life" (John 14:6). No authority or king of this world can compare with this truth! It is He to whom we must turn and trust His loving rule of our lives, bearing witness of his authority and power over sin and evil. We gain confidence that Jesus will return to the world to establish his everlasting kingdom. He will rule the world and the Government will be on His shoulders.

In his earthly ministry, our Lord demonstrated His wisdom as a wonderful Counsellor. All four gospels focus on how wonderfully He helped those who approached him for help. His words had compassion and power. Even those who crucified Him on the cross had testified, "Never did a man speak the way this man speaks" (John 7:46). The way we respond to this truth, we demonstrate his comforting presence in our lives. I like the way John writes, 'We love because God first loved us. If we say we love God, but hate our brothers and sisters, we are liars. For people cannot love God, whom they have not seen, if they do not love their brothers or sisters also' (1 John 4:19-20). When we encounter Jesus, we experience his love leading us into the truth, which our lives bear witness to those living around us.

We have the joy of God's presence in our lives, as we find shelter in Him, who is mighty in power. We find Him bigger than our problems, bigger than our fears, bigger than any challenges that we may face. Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the

Spirit (Romans 8:1-5).

When the Disciples were asking about God, the Father in Heaven, Jesus said, "I am in the Father and the Father is in me...And I will do whatever you ask for in my name, so that the Father's glory will be shown through the Son" (John 14:11,13,14, GNB). Acknowledging Jesus and receiving Him into our hearts brings the joy of heaven into our lives as we live in this world, giving us everlasting hope of life with God in heaven when our lives on earth come to an end.


In this world of chaos and confusion, caused by the greediness for power and wasted ambitions, causing disturbance to the common life of people, people are in search of peace. In Jesus, God has given us the Prince of Peace.

In our Saviour's kingdom, there are no conflicts because He is the Prince of Peace. He offers peace from God (Romans 1:7) to all who receive His grace. He brings us into peace with God (Romans 5:1) for those who surrender to Him in faith. He brings the peace of God (Philippians 4:7) to those who walk with Him.

Real joy is beyond celebrating a religious festival. One can truly celebrate life believing and accepting Jesus who is God's chosen Messiah, the King of Kings, the Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, and the Prince of Peace. He is the reason for real joy, which can be experienced by anyone who seeks Him.

God's purpose for us is that we may find true joy in life, experiencing heaven here on earth. Jesus taught us to pray for God's Kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven. This is possible when we ask this Prince of Peace to come into our lives.

Here is a wonderful, simple prayer to ask this King of Kings and Lord of Lords into your life:

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



Greetings to each of you in the matchless name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We have already entered into the season of Christmas. Christmas always bring Joy, peace, love and happiness. It's my prayer, may the gracious Lord be gracious unto you and your family and bless you.

I always love the story of Christmas. When I was a child several years I played the Christmas drama (play) by taking different characters. There are several characters in the Christmas story. We cannot ignore any one of them because everyone are important and they have played their part well so the Birth of Jesus took place in Bethlehem, the city of Judea.

I would like to focus on Magi (The Wise Men). They were called as Three Kings in those days. Most of you well known about these people by reading Bible and also hearing the messages, stories since your childhood. By their gifts which was mentioned in the scriptures (Matthew 2:11) we can understand they were three people. They come from far away and they were not ordinary people. I am not going to share their background or history here, but I wanted to focus on their 'Worship'.

I. Their Worship was Purposeful (Matthew 2:1-2): When they visited

Jerusalem in the beginning the boldly shared with that they came to 'Worship'. *"Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."* (Matthew 2:2). To worship Jesus, they travelled from far away, they left their homes, they faced many challenges during their travelling in other words they took big risk to Worship the Lord.

How is our worship?

We do not need to travel far away to worship the Lord because his presence is everywhere. He is with us and he is in us but most important is we should worship Jesus. Are you going to Church regularly to Worship the Lord?

Their Worship is voluntary: When they saw a Star in the beginning, they themselves decided to 'Go and see the King'. It's their personal choice not the advice of anyone. Star in the East inspired them, motivated them. I believe it's by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit God they voluntarily decided to go and see the King. We need to listen to the Spirit of the Lord and follow him all the time. Listening and obeying to the

Holy Spirit is the most important thing in our lives. When the spirit of God guides you we need to come voluntarily and worship the Lord. Not because of some one, some reason and for something but we need to come to the lord with our own free will, voluntarily.



Commissioner Daniel Raju Dasari
Territorial Commander, India Northern Territory

Their Worship Costs: Wise men travelling to Bethlehem was not an easy journey. They have to loose many things to come and worship the Lord at Bethlehem. They have travelled many miles to reach, they surely faced many challenges, difficulties during their travel. They brought valuable gifts to Worship Jesus. They not worried about anything, whatever it costs them, but they were gladly came and worshiped Jesus the Saviour. Are we sparing our time in the presence of the Lord, are we sparing our talents, money, gifts for the Lord? Giving is Worship, sparing our time for the Lord is worship.

These Wise men were significant people in their country, noble men but they left everything and came to Worship the Lord Jesus Christ. Let's come to the Lord by forgetting your background, your business, your possessions and your pride. Just humble your self and worship the Lord. Christmas is nothing but Worship the Lord Jesus Christ. 🛐

**WISHING YOU A HAPPY
CHRISTMAS AND BLESSED NEW
YEAR.**

PLENTY OF 'ROOM' AT JESUS

Colonel S. P. Simon

National Executive Officer, India National Office, Kolkata



Everyone expects for a time of celebration. December has come and with it all the joys of Christmas. When I was a child, being an officer's kid, always love to enjoy the season in fullest, but as soon as the season goes, I used to become dull looking for another year.

Now a days I always share with my children and friends what the real meaning of Christmas is? Is it the gifts under the tree, the lighting to our homes, the greeting card, delicious dinners with family and friends, and shouts of "Happy Christmas" to those who pass us in the streets?

Is this really Christmas?

I always ponder to renew 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.

The real Christmas story is the story of God's becoming a human being in the person of Jesus Christ. Why did God do such a thing? Because He loves us!

Why was Christmas necessary?

Because we needed a Saviour! Why does God love us so much? Because He is love itself (1 John 4:8). Why do we celebrate Christmas each year? Out of gratitude for what God did for us, we remember His birth by giving each other gifts, worshipping Him, and being especially conscious of the poor and less fortunate.

God loved His own and provided a possible way, the only way, for us to spend eternity with Him. He gave His only Son to take our punishment for our sins. He paid the price in full, and we are free from condemnation when we accept that free gift of love. *"But God demonstrated His own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us"* (Romans 5:8).

With this in mind, let us make this Christmas as a real season of great joy. It is a time of God showing His great

love for us. It can be a time of healing and renewed strength. Sure, enjoy the season but remember to rejoice as well! After all, the true meaning of Christmas is the celebration of God's ultimate gift: the birth of Jesus, the Christ child.


As we think the true meaning, let us also make a room for Jesus. In Jesus we have enough room, because

- ◆ His love is immeasurable and unconditional
- ◆ Life in him is eternal
- ◆ Hope in him is everlasting
- ◆ Joy in him is infinite

May this Christmas be a time of renewing your hearts to live in Christ, to get the eternal life.

Here is an inspiring prayer I found, which surely must motivate you as well.

New Birth and Freedom in Christ
Almighty God,
grant that the new birth
of your Son in the flesh
redeems us from the old slavery
under the yoke of sin,
so we may receive him with joy
as our Redeemer,
and that when he comes to judge
we may see Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
forever and ever.

Amen. 

(Source: Mozarabic Collect for the The Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Day)



Colonel Yaqaob Masih

Territorial Commander, India Central Territory

Greetings to you in the loving name of Jesus Christ. I am very happy to greet you at this Christmas time, as you all are already engaged in this celebration. We know during the Christmas; our homes are decorated, and we keep the nativity images resembling the Lord' birth as a testimonial celebration. My grand children always ask us when we keep the nativity scenes and the manger, what does they mean. I want to draw your attention the manger, which is not at all a thing that matters, but has many spiritual lessons that it speaks.

Luke is the only writer in the Bible to use the word manger in the New Testament. Manger comes from the Latin word for chew or eat. It refers to a trough where horses and donkeys and cattle ate. And in the most famous Christmas paragraphs in the Bible, Luke rivets our attention on the manger three times.

§ "She gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." (Luke 2:7)

§ "This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." (Luke 2:12)

§ "They went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger." (Luke 2:16)

The day a child is born we all know that he or she can actual say nothing. A baby can cry, gurgle and whine, but a baby cannot speak. We also know that actions speak louder than words. In the case of the birth of Christ, His mere presence in the manger of Bethlehem spoke volumes. His presence in the manger speaks for itself. The songwriter penned the question, "Do you hear what I hear?" We all need to hear the message of the Christ in that manger.

God plans things

From the manger, Jesus is telling us that God arranges things for those who belong to Him. The world may seem to be out of control, but

LISTEN! WHAT THE MANGER SPEAKS TO YOU

God is still in charge. Mary and Joseph were in the center of God's will, but they were still having a difficult time. There are some who preach and teach that following God's will means you will travel the easy road and every valley will be filled and every mountain will be lowered. Mary and Joseph were in the midst of one of the greatest moments in eternal history, but the way was not easy. The long trip for Mary was part of the plan of God. It was an arduous trip for a woman ready to give birth. Often God's plan for us takes us through the valleys, over the rough roads and high mountains, but he arranges His plans in a way to bring about ultimate victory. He doesn't lead you down a road to leave you on your own. Joseph could believe that God was arranging things. Often God's plan involves our being humble in a world that prizes wealth, accomplishments and image. We may not understand all the reasons that Jesus was born in that place, but certainly we know that He was born in lowly circumstances to reveal that He had come to save the least, the last and the lost. He did not come just for the "up and in crowd", He also came for the "down and out crowd."

His birth also teaches us to be faithful in whatever circumstances we find ourselves. Paul knew how to be content in abundance and in want. He knew how to be exalted and abased, and in each case not to lose his sense of trust and faithfulness to the Lord. God arranged the birth of His Son, and He is working in your life as you trust and follow Him. It doesn't matter how things look to the world, or even how they look to you, keep on following the redeemer.

God changes things

Another message of the manger is the way God changes things. Note how he took a lowly cattle stall and turned it into a beautiful image. Most of us have manger scenes in our homes or in our yards during the Christmas season. Isn't that something strange? Just think of it, a cattle stall, once a symbol of the most lowly of earthly places, has become an image of divine life. The presence of Jesus changed it forever! Anything Jesus gets into He changes for the better and for the best, and He changes it forever! That is what happens to a man or woman who lets Him in. He changes you and makes you a child of God. Shepherds used to be a despised, spurned and mocked. This was so because the Shepherds had to watch their flocks even on the Sabbath and the Pharisees felt they were breaking the Old Testament Law. Also, sheep had a terrible odour and the shepherds often

had this same odour on their clothing. They were not the most pleasant people to be around. Yet, angels appeared to them and invited to the manger, the birthplace of our Lord. From that time forward, shepherds would never be viewed the same. Jesus changed the way we look at calendars. Our calendar is dated from the birth of Christ. But, if a person receives Jesus as Savior and Lord. Everything Jesus touches, He changes! Especially those people and places that open up willingly to him.

God exchanges things

Christmas is a time of exchanging gifts. The day after Christmas people go back to the store and exchange the gift, they received for something they actual want. A lot of exchanges take place at Christmastime. In a way, that is fitting. Jesus exchanged things when He came. He exchanged our neglect with His grace and love. This world had no room for Him, but He had and has room for the world. "He came unto His own and His own received Him not." There was no room at the inn that night, but there was room at the Cross for the innkeeper.

Most importantly, He came to be born in order to die in our place. He came to take our sins and give us His righteousness. He came to take our death and give us His life. He came to take our guilt and give us His grace. He came to take our judgment, and thus He died on the cross. In exchange He gives us a place in heaven with Him in eternity. Those reading this article needs to come to Christ. He arranged for your salvation long ago. He changes everything where room is allowed for Him. He will exchange your sins with his forgiveness and righteousness. Just admit your need to be saved and accept Him as your Savior. Matthew 1:21 is clear, "You shall call His name Jesus for He shall save His people from their sins."

You may be decorating your manger with precious things and costly articles. But if you do not make your heart as manger for Jesus to be inside you, this Christmas, probably does not make sense to you at all. You must decorate your heart with holiness that Jesus could stay forever to save you and to offer you the utmost gift of eternity. This voice from manger must be heard by everyone. Can you hear and respond to this gentle voice?

THE ULTIMATE LESSONS FROM THE “INNKEEPER”



Captain Aseervadam Cheeli

Executive Secretary to National Leadership
India National Office.

After having a busy time over the last few months, I had an opportunity to chat with both my boys who are sharing their plans for the upcoming Christmas. My younger son Kenny was expecting that the decoration material including the manger must be changed as some of the items were not in order. He was requesting me to order online before the Christmas. Whilst my younger one is interested in enquiring the online prices, my elder Son was intimating me that he was going to play the role of 'Inn Keeper' in the Christmas play of our Corps. He was literally unhappy that it has only a dialogue and appears one time. It may be true that the 'Inn Keeper' has a short note in the historic and transforming event, but there is a lot that we must learn from him.

What do you focus on at Christmas? Most of us are focused on buying presents, attending celebrations, and decorating homes or churches. While we all get involved in all these materialistic things, there is a chance that we miss the focal point: Jesus Christ. What's amazing is that the same thing happened on the first Christmas: Luke 2:7 (ESV) - Because there was no place for them in the inn.

You may have probably heard the story number of times before. Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem because of a Roman census. When they arrived in Bethlehem, the town was packed and they couldn't find anywhere to stay. An innkeeper sent them away because there was no accommodation for them to stay. Due to the busy census, many people might have occupied in the nearby motels or 'inns'. No matter the details, the innkeeper teaches us some important lessons that we need to remember at Christmas. These lessons not only during the Christmas, but in our day-to-day spiritual journey as well.

Missing Jesus with focus on other things

If the innkeeper had understood who Jesus was, then he would have made

different arrangements. He would have sent out some of his other guests to make room for the savior of the world. We can make the same mistake as the innkeeper. We see Jesus all over the place during Christmas: on cards, on wrapping paper, in carols, and in nativity scenes. But do we understand who Jesus really is? He is God in the flesh. He is the savior of the world. It's easy to miss Jesus because we don't expect God to arrive as a baby, born to a poor family in some obscure part of the earth. Yet, this is what actually happened. No matter what we come across, or no matter how we get distracted with materialistic world, our focus must be on Jesus. In a busy occupied world, we are missing Jesus. We are missing his presence. We are missing his gentle voice. Hebrews 3:1 reminds us "Therefore, holy brothers, partners in a heavenly calling, keep your focus on Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession.

Missing Jesus without knowing the identity

The innkeeper turned away Jesus. He didn't want to be bothered to make room for him. We can push away Jesus too. There's a chance that you might recognize that there is something special about Jesus and his identity. The innkeeper might have known that there would be Messiah, and he shall rise to redeem his people. He might have read or known someone saying. But if he would have known his identity, he might have not acted like this, rather he might have made room at least in his own house, if the inn was too occupied. We know who Jesus is, what Jesus mean to us. We know his identity as the triune God, the Saviour of the World. If Jesus is really God and Lord, are we really caring and giving priority to him in our lives? During Christmas he may be shown as a doll in the native story, leaving the same doll aside once the drama is over. Our priorities and our attention pushing us missing who Jesus is to us in our own lives. Who is your priority? Your busy life, your hobbies, your interests.... If so, there is a danger you will miss Jesus this time. Let Jesus be only

your priority. Matthew 6:33 gives a straight instruction - "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

Missing Jesus with pre-occupied minds

At the first Christmas, there was literally no room for Jesus. And it has been the same way every Christmas since. The innkeeper missed Jesus for he was pre-occupied with his own business and money. He might be interested in other activities that Jesus was no matter for him. We are so busy at Christmas that even as you read this you are probably thinking of all the things you need to be doing. And you probably do not think that you have any time for Jesus in your life. The problem, however, isn't that you don't have room for Jesus. It's that you haven't made room for Jesus. In order to experience the power of Jesus in your life, you need to make room for him. This means you have to make time to hear him by reading the Bible, worshipping him at church, and learning about him with others. The reality is that if you need to make room for anything in your life, it's Jesus. Mathew in Matthew 22:37-40 supports our faith with a wonderful verse - "And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

May this Christmas be a new insight for your spiritual journey strengthening your foundation in Christ. Wishing you a blessed and Christ centred Christmas. 🏠

NATIONAL YOUTH CONGRESS

It has been the result of the constant and continued prayers of millions of salvationists not only in India but throughout the Army world that the national youth congress resulted a great celebration filling hundreds of youngsters with God's spirit and power. It has been the plan and vision of the national office and leaders whose aim was to encourage, empower and engage young folks for the advancement of TSA Mission by motivating them to be ready. This theme was chosen which came out of the General's call to mission. 500 young people from 6 Indian territories and 6 from Sri Lanka have participated in this mega event held at Ashirwad Global centre, Hyderabad from 21st to 24th October 2022, with Commissioners Suresh and Martha Pawar being the special guests and main speakers of the Congress, held under the leadership of Colonels S. P. Simon & Annama Simon, National leaders.

The congress was commenced with traditional colourful and vibrant Salvation Army marchpast. Colonel S. P. Simon, National Executive Officer and Colonel Annam Simon, Secretary for Women development welcomed and led the ceremony filling joy and bliss in the participants. The territorial groups offered guard of honour to the



international leaders with their vivid forces going on to the mission of getting ready. Although there was drizzling,

their heart and mind was fully focussed on the mega inaugural celebration where

to stay focussed for the next couple of days which moved them to be ready.

The video greetings from the General Brian Peddle and the greetings & keynote address from the Chief of the Staff Commissioner Lyndon Buckingham during the welcome session motivated with a thought how the young people must be ready during the present times while being connected to Jesus. The special performances from India Central and India South Western territories

brought young people to different world where their talents can be fully spent for the glorification of God.

Commissioners Suresh & Martha Pawar stimulated the young folks moving the God's spirit touching everyone. Their influential and powerful spiritual addresses during the main sessions of the Congress touched every heart and it was

witness that everyone was overwhelmed with the Holy spirit presence. "I'll fight", "Uniqueness of the Salvation Army", "Battle Ready now" were the main sessions that caught the attention of the youngsters during Commissioner Suresh Pawar's discourses. The exciting atmosphere and surroundings not only boosted the spirit of the young folks but

leaders hoisted the flag and inspired with Army salute. The pulsating lighting and animations inspired the youngsters



Continued to next page



stirred a heavenly fellowship. Another inspirational session headed by Commissioner Lyndon Buckingham (video) on “Call to Holiness” was another great spiritual lesson whose thoughts literally motivated young people the need and significance to be holy. Captain Marc and Mariska Potters, International Child & Youth officers presented another video message based on the parable of mustard tree, encouraging young people the need to inculcate faith on Jesus so as to be successful.



Break-out sessions were the interesting sessions that helped to know and equip on the current issues being the fighting forces of the Army. Ten subjects were chosen, and ten eminent and renowned Christian speakers and territorial leaders took over the session for two days. These sessions brought out new understanding and knowledge where they can apply in their day-to-day lives. Commissioner Daniel Raju Dasari, Commissioner John Kumar Dasari, Colonel S. P. Simon, Major Jashiben Khristi, Major Anita Massey, Mr. Moses Manohar, Mr. D. Sundar Das, Rev. Anugreh Peter, Mrs. Bhanu Suresh and Captain Latha Cheeli dealt on these ten different topics. The Territorial Youth Secretaries and the National Office team facilitated these sessions.

One of the most exciting events of the Congress were the cultural evenings. The talents and the gifts given by God

No doubt, the Praise and Worship of all the territorial teams filled with heavenly commendations. The songs, the prayers and the worship moved the spirit and

everyone was fully engaged with the spirit of God. The Congress witness the multi talented youngsters shoe focus on Army was incredible.

During the final session, the Youth were so devoted and paid a careful attention to the word of God as spoken by Commissioner Suresh Pawar. The message was inviting and heart touching where the youth shed their tears and renewed their commitment to God. 108 youth have accepted the officer calling, and it is going to be a great strength to the 21st century Army in India. Others have also renewed their faith and

covenant with God at the mercy seat as a result of wonder working spiritual power.

➤ Highlights of the Congress:

- i. 500 youngsters from 6 Indian territories and 6 from Sri Lanka have participated
- ii. 108 youth have accepted for officership
- iii. Spirit filled sessions with powerful Christian calling by International leaders
- iv. 10 Breakout sessions on the current youth issues
- v. Influential praise & worship from all the six Indian Territories
- vi. Brass band from the India Eastern Territory
- vii. Wonderful musical drama from India South Western territory on history of the Salvation Army India
- viii. Astounding inaugural and welcome sessions
- ix. Disciplined volunteer Force from Hyderabad division
- x. 24 young achievers were rewarded
- xi. Painting & Drawing display from the territories was special attraction
- xii. Territorial stalls represented the culture and supplies of respective Territories
- xiii. 24X7 prayer cell run by the Hyderabad division volunteers.

We are truly grateful to all the Indian territorial leaders and the territorial youth secretaries for their excellent support and help. The prayers and fullest encouragement from zonal international leaders and south Asia zone team was incredible. We offer our grateful thanks to Colonels S. P. Simon and Annamma, national office leaders for their well coordination, guidance and prayerful support. Special thanks must be mentioned to Steering Committee (Colonel Yaqoob Masih, Chairman), Programme Committee (Commissioner





Daniel Raju, Chairman), Finance Committee (Lt. Colonel M. Stalin, Chairman), Arrangements Committee (Lt. Colonel P. J. William, Chairman) and Reception Committee (Colonel Annamma Simon, Chairman) for their

the kingdom of God. The entire event was well presented by the anchors.

Colonel Yaqoob Masih ,



young people.

timely support and guidance. The hard work, excellent planning, and execution of Captain Aseervadam Cheeli in all areas of the congress was evident and tremendous, which helped to make entire event perfect and seamless. We are also grateful to Major O. Philip Raju, Hyderabad divisional leaders team, local officers, volunteer leaders and their team in making the congress wonderful.

Above all the disciplined young people, their interest, their co-operation and participation were marvellous. We pray that this congress will build the future Army in India. They will strengthen the ministry in their respective



centres. They will stir the Army and Salvationism among their Corps and centres, and together they will extend and raise

to strengthen the foundations of the Army in respective territories.

iii. The youth were inspired, and spirit filled youth were raised for the officership in carrying the Army mission to 21st century

iv. Youth were provided opportunities to




Colonel Sumitra Masih, and Colonel Vanalfela, territorial leaders of ICT and IWT were also present during the Congress and blessed the

learn different cultures of India through their fellowship and interactions.

v. The youth were inspired to plan and live for Christ life with Christian values, ethics and standards.

vi. The Salvation Army -India was united with its prayers for this congress whose prayers resulted wonderful event

The Salvation Army - India need to pray for our young people as they were made ready for empowering the next generation, Army. Let us build the Army of God. May God bless our young people. 

Accomplishments

i. The young people were strengthened and stimulated and made ready to take responsibility in building the next generation Army

ii. Young people were motivated and inspired to utilise their talents and skills

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



SOME ATTRACTIONS FROM NATIONAL YOUTH CONGRESS



SOME ATTRACTIONS FROM NATIONAL YOUTH CONGRESS



Congratulations!



Heartiest Congratulations to Captains Christopher & Dorothy Macwan on your new appointment as Assistant Under Secretary, International Headquarters, London

– India National Office

SOME ATTRACTIONS FROM NATIONAL YOUTH CONGRESS...



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."

SERVANT LEADERSHIP TRAINING

“Servant in God's Vineyard” theme-based training on Servant Leadership for the selected officers from six Indian territories was conducted by India National office at Hotel Ramada Chennai during 30th October – 2nd November 2022, with Commissioner Suresh Pawar being the chief guest and main resource person, under the leadership of Colonel S P Simon, National Executive officer, supported by Captain Aseervadam Cheeli. This training was inaugurated on 30th September 2022 by international secretary inviting the attention of the delegates to focus on their servanthood to make a realistic effect to be like Jesus.

24 delegates from six Indian territories from various positions took part in this special training aimed to develop the Christian servant leaders to be the role models, and to serve the people with Christ like nature. Servant Leadership has been the medium of Jesus Christ which impacted the people with love and service. In order for the Salvation Army leaders to reach the people in need and the unreached, the National office made this training possible to make the mission more intimate with people and to proclaim the gospel in action, which was led by Colonel S. P. Simon, National Executive officer.

Commissioner Suresh Pawar, International Secretary with his illuminating lectures helped the delegates to understand the theological foundations, Characteristics of Servant for the Church Leadership,



Servant Leadership & the Christian Identity and Personal Spiritual Life of Leaders. The Commissioners innovative style and




sessions delivering provided a new insight in understanding the spiritual thoughts and the key contents. The session related to Characteristics of Servants for the Corps leadership based on The Salvation Army Song book was commendable with seven

inspiring factors. Every session had its own speciality and creativity.

Colonel S. P. Simon, National Executive Officer presented sessions on the essential elements of servant leadership, Jesus- the role model of servant leadership,

mentoring people with servant leadership, and shaping communities with servant leadership. His versatile presentations supported the delegates to know deeper and wider. His illustrative explanations also helped to understand clear.

Captain Aseervadam Cheeli, led the group discussions helping the delegates to assess their leadership, the needs, and coming up with their individual plan where they would meet and lead the people through their servant leadership. Colonel Yaqoob Masih, Territorial Commander, ICT and Lt. Colonel M. Stalin, Chief Secretary - ICT led the morning devotions on the first two days. During the final meeting Commissioner Suresh Pawar delivered an inspiring message through which the delegates renewed their call and commitment to spread the gospel and build the kingdom of God through servant leadership. The delegates had the opportunity to enjoy team building through a short city tour. India National office express thanks to India Central territorial leadership for their support and allowing Major K. Prasad, to be the liaison officer who made all the arrangements very effectively. 

Captain Aseervadam Cheeli
Executive Secretary to National Leadership
India National Office, Kolkata



WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP TRAINING



women leaders has been greatly enhanced and heightened. All the leaders brought out new spiritual thoughts that augmented the perspective of the women leadership required for the present times. Undeniably, all the session left a huge influence in the lives of the delegates aiming to build kingdom of God with their leadership skills.

Commissioner Nu-i, led illustrative Bible studies deepening the spiritual truths of the delegates. The group discussions made them to think innovatively how best they can utilise their skills in advancing the mission forward. The delegates had an encouraging fellowship through their participation in the Cultural Nights and in the team building activity of outing in Ooty. They enjoyed the God's creation and praised.

In the final spiritual meeting led by Colonel Annamma Simon, Commissioner Martha Pawar spoke powerful word of God inviting their attention to be the leaders of integrity and truthfulness towards God and the mission of The Salvation Army. This heart inspiring message moved the delegates to

Located in the hills of Nilgiris, surrounded with pleasant atmosphere and pleasing ambience, the Women in Leadership Training based on the theme - "Reimagining" was conducted from 30th October to 2nd November 2022, at The Salvation Army Christian Conference Centre, Coonoor. The training was led by Commissioner Martha Pawar, Zonal Secretary for Women's Ministries under the supervision of Colonel Annamma Simon, Secretary for Women Development, India National office, with Commissioner Manikumari, Colonel Lalhlimpui and Commissioner Nekhanching Nu-i as the resource persons.

It has been the vision and desire of our international leaders that our women must be equipped and supported towards the leadership to strengthen the mission and ministry of the Salvation Army in India. Their vision and dream did not go in vain, as the entire training not only boosted the capacity of the delegates but stimulated to be an efficacious community leader who at the end developed their own plan of action to be a faithful and effective leader.

30 delegates from six Indian Territories took part in this training comprising mainly on women in taking lead of the mission. Commissioner Rosalie Peddle, with her inspirational video message brought out greetings to the delegates and reminded them how important they

are for the ministry in the Salvation Army. During the inaugural address led by Colonel Annamma Simon, Commissioner Martha Pawar inspired and drawn their attention how they must be fit into the mission of reimagining whilst their capacities, skills and talents be refocused to use for the glory of God.


The sessions on 'Church Leadership & Women Role', 'Characteristics of



Christian Women Leaders', 'Christian Leadership- Church Growth & Women', 'Responsibility of Women in leading the mission forward', 'The Salvation Army Women Ministry & leadership', 'Strengthening Ministry Foundations by Women', 'TSA Administration & Women Leadership', 'Discover the Potential-enhancing Leadership abilities' presented by the leaders and the resource persons moved the spirit of the delegates. Their understanding as

rededicate their lives for their call and commitment. Overall, this was a great and rich experience to the delegates in being equipped with the most demanding leadership skills required to lead the communities focussing and presenting Jesus

the God's love.

May we request the readers to pray for the women and the ministry they do. Our women are special and they are key pillars in establishing, empowering the ministry of the Salvation Army. 

Colonel Annamma Simon
Secretary for Women development
India National Office, Kolkata