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**CAMPUS
LINK**



FAITH FOUNDATION

“LET THE WORD OF CHRIST DWELL IN YOU RICHLY”

(A Triolet based on Colossians Ch 3:16)

*“Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly”
Teach, admonish one another with the powerful
Word.*

*Use the word to deal with life’s problems
effectively.*

*“Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly”
As a weapon to defend your faith against
Satan so fully,*

*The word of God is living, sharper than
two-edged sword.*

*“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly”.
Sanctify us by the truth which is your Word.*



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UNSHAKEN FOUNDATION

The Apostles founded the early Church on the solid rock, the Lord Jesus Christ. They were very careful that nothing apart from the Apostolic teaching, based on what Jesus taught them, would enter the Church dispelling its unity, nor another Jesus preached. The Church moved on with the same foundation, though not without the challenges of disunity or diverse teachings.

Many of us in UESI have been well taught from the day we entered EU about the basic foundations of UESI. Our forefathers have struggled to sustain UESI with these God-given values such as Evangelism, Centrality of the Word of God, Student Initiative, Life of Faith and Prayer, Fellowship, Personal Care, Moral Purity & Financial Integrity, Shared Leadership and Social responsibility. We in UESI now, have seen that we look forward to undiluted and uncompromising stand on all of these values. It is our responsibility to do so too. We have books published on them, our website has information on them, and we teach them in our Committee Members Training Camps and in the Staff Training. This issue is an attempt to practically rethink on those foundations based on which UESI has been built.

The threat of the spread of Corona virus all over the world, scares everyone including leaders of the nations. I do not have space to argue if it is part of fulfilment of the Biblical prophecy or not! But, the promises of the Lord to protect us from pestilences are unchanging (Ex. 15:26; 91.6; Is. 53:5). As UESI members it is our duty to really pray for those affected by this virus and for those doctors, nurses and health care personnel involved in the service.

Dear readers, I would urge you now to help us get more ten-year Subscribers and more student subscribers. Make every opportunity to introduce CL to your friends and EU & EGF members. If you need extra copies for promotion, please feel free to write to campus.link@uesi.in

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Personal Care

We live in a fast paced culture where people are too busy to talk to each other. These days with all the technology explosion people don't even bother to see who is standing next to them. Earlier when we travelled in a train or bus we would say hello to the next person and by the time we ended our journey we could have become good friends. But these days we find it difficult to say hello to people as their ears are plugged with ear phones and we should tap them and say hello which is quite embarrassing.

All are busy in their own world with no connection with the other person. We live in a virtual world where we always communicate but never communicate. We don't even like to have face to face conversations and all what we see is a person behind the mask. We can portray ourselves as very good human beings without anyone seeing our reality. We can use a number of emoticons to show people that we are happy. But the smiley on our device never reflects our real life. We also live in an instant generation where everything is at our door step with just a click. We don't even need to get out and meet people.

In such an environment what is the place for personal care? How do we meet people? How do we draw their attention? A big challenge!

But behind every virtual, 'seems to be happy' person there is always a void. In spite of all the business of life, having so many virtual friends, they are lonely! Suicides are on the rise, depression and psychological disorders are rapidly spreading, people are in need of a listening ear! They think the gadgets can provide them everything but sadly they do not have feelings, they cannot understand emotions or struggles. There is a need of a person who has emotions, feelings, who can understand them in and out. It is only in a face to face conversation that we get to know the real person.

The best example is Jesus Himself, instead of being an impersonal God communicating to us he took the fleshly form and identified with us and communicated with us. He understood each of our emotions, every struggle, every pain and he can help us in all our helplessness. Not only had He communicated to the whole world but He also took individual care even when he was on a busy schedule on the earth. He gave importance to a single individual despite his packed itinerary. He knew each person's need and helped them to be in their shoes.

The one thing that attracted me to the UESI was this kind of personal touch that EU people showed. No matter who they were, professors in a college or engineers or students, they all sat together, prayed together, had fun together. I remember the college professors from my brother's EU visiting us when I was in school. The way they were talking and having fun surprised me because I had never seen such a 'cool' behavior from teachers. We always maintained a distance with our teachers. But here they were like friends and even their love for our parents made me think what type of fellowship this is!

I was a very timid, shy girl but they loved me so much and tried to build me up right from then. It was in one such sitting with a

senior student that I accepted Jesus as my personal Savior and after that they had concern not just for the spiritual things in my life but for every other aspect of my life. Even now I don't know why they invested in such a timid and shy person! But their personal touch impacted me so much that I longed to be a part of the fellowship. My total personality changed from then on. I don't exactly remember all the teachings I received, but I remember all the people who took special interest in me to make me what I ought to be! They did not give up but persevered and so I am here today serving the Lord.

So I proudly say that UESI smartens the weak ones and not just smarten the smart ones! UESI saw to it that a quiet person in the group is given importance so that the best in them is brought out. It is through the EU platform that I learned to talk to people. The GBS helped me open my mouth in a group. The EU meetings which helped me to face people. But all these happened because of the people who invested in my life individually and built my confidence. I knew that there were a few individuals on whom I can count on! They knew me very personally, they were there to help in any situation - whether sickness in the family, financial crunch, being in the hospital with my parents and helping them or any other thing. It was heart touching and even my family got so impressed that they asked me also to join UESI though I wasn't willing at that time.

UESI people were there with us throughout our thick and thin. When my father died, we both, the children were in the NMTC and EU people in Kerala took care of everything right from looking after my mother, cooking, cleaning, fetching water from down the hill, to taking care of the cows! Our locality was surprised to see such care that they kept asking what kind of a group is this! The SS of UESI Kerala at that time took leave and along with his family stayed with us for almost a week till we got over the shock. When my mother had a stroke she was all alone and it was the EGF people who took care of her in the hospital until the time we reached. They took care of all the meals and bills till we got discharged. That's the care we



experienced in UESI. They were not just concerned about our souls but took care of every aspect of our life. It costed them so much, their time and resources, but it was because of such care and love that the two of us are in UESI and involved in different parts of our country though many of them couldn't go outside Kerala.

But the fast paced life has even affected UESI too. We are too busy with programs or numbers that we lose individuals. We are in such a rat race of reaching the target that going for one individual seems to be a waste for us! We conduct Christmas programs and say 100s of students heard the gospel. We have discipleship camp and say these many disciples are there. We do LTC and say these many leaders are there. Do we take pain to know how many of them have really made a definite commitment with God and how many are growing in that? We rush to the Bible studies and say "hi" and "bye" but our time with students is very limited.

We are also in the social media so most of our communication is through whatsapp, Facebook, Instagram etc. rather than meeting up with people face to face. So we don't know what's exactly happening with them. We see their outward performance and think that they are fine. They know the UESI vocabulary very well and impress us and we think that they are mature believers. But behind all these performances there is a real person! We can find it out only when we spend quality time with them. The shallowness will be seen when we have a close walk with them. It will not happen instantly, but it is time consuming. We may not be able to run around and do so many things if we really spend time with individuals. I often say if there is quality, quantity will come. The best example is the early Church. They had quality fellowship many were added to the Church. When the disciples caught the vision they spread across and shared the good news. All because of the intentional, qualitative training they got from Jesus! They saw it in Jesus' ministry and caught it. Jesus was never carried away

by the crowd but always took time out with his disciples to inculcate radical commitment in them. Andrew brought Peter to Christ and later Peter became a fire brand. So by investing in individuals let us not forget that they will do great things. Understanding one individual's potential and investing in him/her is rewarding.

Once I attended a program where there was a panel of JNU Christian Fellowship pass outs along with their mentor sharing how one individual has impacted them. That in turn impacted many universities and many NGOs sprouted up. There was a focused training of the students that they all caught the vision and spread across doing greater things!

Of late, are we losing on this core value? We need to introspect and ask, "Are we more on programs than people, quantity than quality, structure than shaping lives?" Let us not be blinded by the enemy's trap of making us too busy for people that we lose quality time with people. We may be very much satisfied with the numbers and reports but that may be at the cost of individuals. One person recently commented, earlier UESI was remembered by people, now more by programs and events. Let us get back to the basics and build one another in faith thus obeying the command of making disciples so that in turn they will disciple others! Let it be contagious!



Jessy Jacob, UESI staff worker (Training Dept) currently based at Delhi along with her husband Jacob Varghese and two daughters Prashansa & Prerna

The central place given to the Scriptures, and accepting its supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct mark UESI as an evangelical movement along with other student-movements of IFES. (Core Values p. 11)



Faith Foundations

One fine morning the king called all the “Mantris” to his palace as he wanted to speak with them. He was worried that his kingdom was lacking people who are trust worthy. He thought to make the people understand, what it is to be a trustworthy person, but he did not have any idea how to show that. He gave a quest to each of his Mantris. Everyone must do something or show something that demonstrates trustworthiness to the king. He marked a day and ordered the Mantris to come prepared to demonstrate this request of the king on that day, so that he will see to it and teach the kingdom a lesson about what it is to be a trust worthy person.

The day marked by the king arrived. Every one of his Mantris came to the palace. Some of the Mantris brought what is precious to them like diamond and gold, their harvest of the fields and many other things to satisfy the King. But one of the Mantris came with a dog to the palace. At his turn to present his gift to prove his trustworthiness, he gave the dog to the king. The king got very angry and called the guards to arrest him for his foolish action. The Mantri told the king that, “My

King you asked for faithfulness, but I didn't find it anywhere in this kingdom, so please let me demonstrate it to you with what I have". He asked the King for his sword and then he took the King's sword from its sheath. He looked at his dog with sadness in his heart for a moment, and then he sheared his ear with the King's sword. The dog started howling with pain and ran around the citadel bleeding. Then he came back to the Mantri. He again took the sword and sheared the other part of its ear. With great pain and agony, he ran to and fro around the citadel. Wallowing in its own blood it came back to its master's feet. The Mantri took his sword again, this time the king held the Mantri's hand with tears from his eyes as deep silence astounded the Citadel.

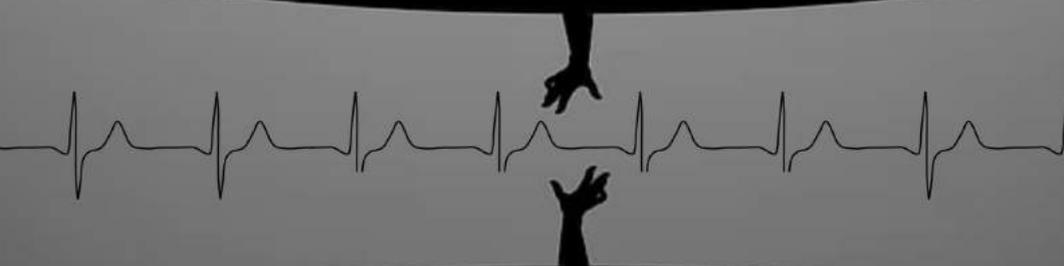
Job says, "Shall we accept good things from God, and not troubles" (Job 2:10). Most of the times, we are ready to accept all things that come through faith, but faith and faithfulness can't be separated. We must know in our hearts that God does all things for the good of those who love him. As a result, Job received a double portion of God blessing. Our God is not an unjust God; He knows and understands us more than we could know. When we completely surrender and empty ourselves at God's feet, we will be lifted up. Let our faith and faithfulness reach heaven as our knees touch ground in surrender.



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"I have been trying to practice the Sermon on the Mount, giving to everyone who asks me and refusing no one who wants to borrow from me, as well as applying my life in the different principles given in that Sermon. It is my conviction that only when such a life is lived, is God able to speak to people both through words and actions" Prof H. Enoch, Following the Master p. 50

Let's take initiative for Gospel movement in our city as Jesus took in Samaria



"And this Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come." - Matthew 24:14 (NKJV)

(Scripture References)

(Genesis 1: 26, 3:6 -24, Romans 5: 12, Jeremiah 29:7, John 3:16, Romans 6:23, John 4:1-39)

What is Gospel?

One day, I went to a known place and saw a little girl there. She was around four years old and was playing with a hundred rupee note. During her play, the note got torn all of a sudden. The child got scared thinking about what would happen. She tore that note into smaller pieces and hid them under the pillow. A while later, her mother came and asked her "Where is hundred rupee note? She told a lie saying, "I don't know where

the note is". Her mother searched for the note and found small pieces of it under the pillow. She asked the child, "who did this?"The child replied that she did not know and that perhaps a rat might have torn it. I was standing there witnessing all these things. I was quite amazed and shocked to see this and this question came to my mind "Who taught her to tell a lie?". From where did this nature enter? How did these things come to her mind? After studying the Bible for a long time, I came to know from where the seed of sin came into her.

Once upon a time, God created us and we had a wonderful relation with God, ("So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. Genesis 1: 26, 2: 7, 3: 8) We sinned against God. God gave a commandment to Adam and Eve to not eat the fruit from the Tree of Knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 3:6-7); but they disobeyed and ate from that tree and the relationship which we had with God, was broken (Genesis 3: 24). Thus, sin entered into the world through one man, and death through sin. Death and sin came to all people, because all sinned (Romans 5: 12). There, I got the answer to the question, "where did the girl learn to tell a lie!"Today, people are dying in their sins; everywhere we hear "bad news" of murder, rape, robbery, exploitation, harassment etc. We have a responsibility towards our city. The Bible says that we should seek the peace and prosperity for the city where we live. (Jeremiah 29:7)

Today, everyone in our city wants to hear the good news. The literal meaning of "Gospel" is "Good News", the Good News (Gospel) is that God sent His one and only Son Jesus Christ to save humans from their Sins and eternal separation from God (Hell). 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. (John 3:16)

The Bible says, "The wages of sin is death (Romans 6: 23). We all were dying in our sins. Our destination was hell and eternal death, but first time in human history a unique thing happened. God Himself came in human body and died on the



cross for our sins and rose to life after three days. There was one man whose name was John, when he saw Jesus for the very first time, He said "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world! (John 1: 29).

Gospel movement in our city as Jesus brought in Samaria.

Jesus was always working hard and travelling from one place to another to share the Good News with people. We need to think; are we working hard and travelling to share the good News in our city?

Once, He (Jesus) wanted to go from Judea to Galilee and the Bible says, "Jesus had to go through Samaria." John 4:3-4. The Samaritans were people whom the Jews despised and with whom they had a history of dispute Yet Jesus decided to go through Samaria. We need to think; are we making plans and strategies and decide in our hearts that we should go into our city?

The relations with these neighbors had so worsened over the years that the proud Jews would not eat, drink from their hands or talk to them. Today, we also have a worsened relationship with our neighbors in our city. Jesus took the initiative to go through Samaria. (John 4:4, 7) He built a bridge through a woman He met at the well. (John 4:6). We need to think, are we building bridges to provide people the "Life well spring" (Jesus Christ). The Samaritan woman was in need of water that's why she came to drag water from the well at 12:00 noon and sixth hour according to Jewish time (John 4:6-7). Today, people of the city are also in desperate need of Living Water to fulfil their Spiritual thirst. He laid aside the Jewish pride and went as a person in need and asked for water. Not only did He lay aside His Jewish pride, but He also voluntarily gave up His divine powers and majesty. He is God, He did not need to ask anyone for water. If He gave a command to the well that 'water should come out', then water would come out for Him.

We need to think, are we living our lives in pride as the Jews lived at the time of Jesus or are we ready to become humble

as Jesus, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a Servant, and was made in the likeness of men:" (Philippians 2:5-8). That Samaritan woman was amazed to see that a 'high class', 'superior' and 'reputed' Jew (John 4:9b) was asking for water, (John 4: 9a). Let us talk and share the gospel and amaze the people of our city with whom we have had no relationship or association for a long time.

The Jews lived under a presumption that God, His salvation and His blessings are for them alone. Other people around like Samaritans are despised and have no place in His Kingdom. They knew that the Samaritans were lost and living in error, but they only responded with spiritual pride and apathy towards them.

The society was divided between God's people and the rest. Jesus crossed the boundaries to break the age-old barriers. He took initiative to build relationship overcoming the existing animosity. He found a person in need and gave her what she needed the most. He built on the commonality of spiritual heritage leading her from the truth she had known, to the discovery of the Gospel, the ultimate desire of all nations. He led her to a personal encounter with the truth. Her life was immediately transformed to become a living witness to all her community. Through her, the city was opened to the Gospel and many came to meet and accept the Messiah.

Contd. on Pg. 35

A Christian fellowship group needs to be a therapeutic community where there is love, care,affirmation, warmth, acceptance, forgiveness, reconciliation and healing. (Core Values p. 24)



Foundations of Faith - **The Essence of** **Spiritual Life**

In order to construct a stable building on this earth a good foundation is indispensable. A proper foundation is required before constructing the superstructure. The superstructure is built on the foundation. No superstructure can be built without laying the foundation first. If a person chooses to follow the Way, acknowledges as being a sinner, invites Jesus into his heart as the saviour and Lord, trusts and honours Him, then, he becomes a child of God. As a believer his life is compared to the construction of a building, as believers are God's building (1 Cor. 3:9) and in Jesus they are also being built together for a habitation of God through the Spirit (Eph 2:22). His faith is founded in the Lord Jesus whom God chose for a foundation stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation (Isa. 28:16).

The foundation of faith in spiritual life is not a man-made creed, a denomination or a religious ceremony. The foundation is Jesus Christ. The foundation of faith must be laid according to the builder's plan. The Bible gives the plan of the master builder, Jesus Christ. Some professing believers attempt

to build their lives by getting involved in busy schedules of meetings, programs, camps and retreats etc. They like to show their outward spiritual life as praiseworthy. But in the long run, their foundation of faith begins to flounder. They become discouraged and backslide. "They have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and are overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning." (2 Peter 2:20). Therefore, for other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ (I Cor. 3:11).

The foundation of faith is based on God's word. God's word stands firm like a rock [foundation]; nothing can shake it (II Tim 2:19). As a believer, the Scripture in Romans 10:17 ". . . Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God", gives us knowledge on how faith comes. The Bible charts believer's life within the compass of God's will. God's word is a lamp for his feet and a light to his path. (Psa. 119:105). Like newborn babies, when believers crave pure spiritual milk, that is the word of God, they grow up in salvation (I pet 2:2) and increase in faith. The word of God speaks at the time of our needs and crises and builds up our faith. Faith to believe God's word is the very basis of receiving the promises that He says we can have. As we stand on the promises of God we experience victory over failures and defeat all vile attacks of the evil one. Our faith grows stronger as we are grounded and rooted in God's word.

Building a proper spiritual foundation is part of the doctrine [teachings] of Jesus as illustrated in Luke 6:47-49: "As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete." This passage records that the people were "astonished at His doctrine."



Part of that doctrine was the story He told about building on a good foundation. Steps to the foundation are (i) coming to Him, (ii) hearing the word and (iii) doing the word. "But do not just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise you are only fooling yourselves (James 1; 22).

The epistle to the Romans (Chapter 5:1-5) teaches our justification through faith, peace with God, access to God's grace and boasting not only in the hope of glory of God but also glory in our sufferings, because suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. Hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. God's love moves our hearts to share our lives with others in deed and words. Believers become witnesses of transforming gospel and reach out to others in community to fulfil social and spiritual needs. Out of concern and burden of reaching out to others, believers have started holistic ministry in orphanages, old age homes, homes for disabled, hospitals, schools and colleges along with evangelism and missions. Almost all organisations are faith ministries as they walk by faith, not by sight (2Cor. 5:7) and serve God to fulfil His purpose for every created being. The Lord desires everyone to be saved, none to perish (2 Peter 3:9).

The purpose of spiritual "building" in a believer is to provide a habitation [a dwelling place] for God. His Spirit will dwell in a believer only when life is built on the right foundation. Paul asked: Know you not that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? (I Corin. 3:16). "But the firm foundation laid by God stands sure and unshaken, bearing this seal and inscription: The Lord knows those who are His and let everyone who names himself by the name of the Lord give up all iniquity and stand aloof from it. (II Tim. 2:19). God calls us to live a life that is holy and free from evil and wicked ways. Moral purity should be our standard as we pursue to live in a way that honours God. "Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body (I Cor. 6:18). We are called

upon to put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry (Col 3:5) without being conformed to this world (Rom 12:1). The uncompromisingly righteous has an everlasting foundation (Prov. 10:25).

If the foundation of faith is not embedded in our hearts, the power to endure will crumble (Henry B. Eyring, Religious leader). Spiritual faith foundation is eternal as Timothy mentions in I Timothy 6:19 “..Laying up for themselves the riches that endure forever, a good foundation for the future. . .” In the spiritual journey every believer should progress, as apostle Paul admonishes in the general epistle of Hebrews, to go on unto perfection leaving principles of the doctrine of Christ and beyond laying again foundation of repentance from dead works, and faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment (Heb. 6:1-2).

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Right from its inception, UESI as a movement has been giving importance to caring for individuals, following the pattern of Jesus Christ who selected twelve and spent time with them (Mk. 3: 14) Individual care (Lk. 15: 3,8, 20), and the preciousness of one person should overpower us. (Core Values p. 27)



How to Reconcile with Your Unhappy Past

We all encounter unhappy events or experiences in our lives – hurts, disappointments and tragedies. Normally, over a period of time, we overcome them and move on. However, sometimes these unhappy past events or experiences keep on replaying in our minds affecting our lives negatively.

For example, you might be constantly struggling with thoughts about an unhappy childhood, a bad experience in school or college, failure in studies or career, a close friend who cheated on you, or a boss who harassed you or something like this.

Interestingly enough, most people who harbor feelings of resentment and regret may not be actually experiencing any negative event or situation during their present. But unfortunately, they keep re-living the past experiences by constantly thinking about them.

All the negative and unpleasant past events and experiences can be classified into three categories:

- ✓ What we did to ourselves - our mistakes, failures, wrong decisions.
- ✓ What others did to us - conflicts, hurts, disappointments.
- ✓ What nature has done - calamity, sickness, loss of loved ones etc.

Why do we need to reconcile with our unhappy past? Thinking about our unhappy past robs the joy of the present moment. We constantly live with guilt or bitterness. By dwelling in our past, we miss what God is doing in the present. Too much dwelling in the past drains our energy. It can cause stress and health problems like insomnia, migraines etc. The unsettled past can reduce the quality of our relationships as we hesitate to trust others. It can actually hold us back from what God wants us to become and achieve in our lives.

Now, how can we deal with this ever-bothering past. How to come to terms with the regrets of life? To find out the answer, let us look into a passage in Genesis 45, where Joseph, a familiar character to all of us, dealt with his own terrible past.

"⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." When they had done so, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! ⁵And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. ⁶For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. ⁷But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance."

As we know, Joseph was a young innocent boy when his brothers out of jealousy attempted to murder him. Joseph narrowly escaped death, when they changed their mind to sell him to Midianites who were on their way to Egypt. After a brief time as a slave boy in the house of Potiphar, he was put in prison. He went through distressing times, before he could become the Prime Minister of Egypt. And now, things so worked out that those very brothers stood before him as helpless foreigners.

Instead of blaming the circumstances and harbouring bitter and revengeful attitude towards his brothers, Joseph looked at the situation from an entirely different vantage point. He was not angry with his brothers. He was neither blaming them nor himself. In fact, his brothers were filled with deep regret for what they had done to Joseph. They were so guilty that they could not see him in his eyes. But Joseph consoled his brothers, asking them not to be angry with themselves, because God worked out everything for good. It was a great relief and comfort for his brothers.

By dealing with his past from a different perspective, Joseph not only healed himself but also brought healing to his brothers. His past did not change, but the way he looked at his past changed. His feelings and emotions about the past events and the people involved in those events have changed. And it made all the difference.

Based on how Joseph reconciled with his unpleasant and otherwise a heart-breaking past, here are the ways in which we can deal with our own unhappy past.

Realize the possibility of committing mistakes

Accept the fact that you are a human being and could commit mistakes. You could fail, not once but many times. Don't get into the trap of perfectionism. You will always be vulnerable and may not become a perfect human being in this life. Learn to be comfortable with what you think as an imperfect past. Life need not be perfect to be beautiful.

Kintsugi is an interesting Japanese art of putting broken pottery pieces back together with gold. It is built on the idea that in embracing flaws and imperfections, you can create an even stronger, more beautiful piece of art.

You need not worry about your cracks; God has been filling those cracks with gold. They are no more ugly and uncomfortable. You are becoming stronger and more beautiful. God filled all the cracks in Joseph's life so that it became beautiful and blessed.

Recognize the hand of God during the past events

Joseph was 100% sure that God was with him all through his life events. . . when he was thrown in to the pit, sold into Egypt as a slave, and even when he was thrown into prison for no fault of his. It is not that God wanted him to suffer, but God was working through all those events to make Joseph who he became.

When we bring our unhappy and painful past – with all our mistakes, failures, hurts and disappointments - to God, he can take them and turn them into blessings. Our God is expert in bringing beauty out of ashes.

Following poem describes the feelings of an elementary school teacher. His student comes to him with a spoiled sheet. He goes to God with a spoiled day. Something beautiful happens in both cases.

He came to my desk with a quivering lip, the lesson was done.
"Have you a new sheet for me, dear teacher? I've spoiled this one." I took his sheet, all soiled and blotted and gave him a new one all unspotted. And into his tired heart I cried, "Do better now, my child."

I went to the throne with a trembling heart; the day was done.
"Have you a new day for me, dear Master? I've spoiled this one." He took my day, all soiled and blotted and gave me a new one all unspotted. And into my tired heart he cried, "Do better now, my child."



You need not carry the burden of your past. You don't have to go through that emotional turmoil. You need not feel guilty about the wasted years. Bring it into hands of God and let him take all that is spoiled and ugly and give you a brand-new future.

Record the lessons from the past and learn from them

Sometime, it may help to sit down and take a careful look at the bothering past, and analyse if you can learn some lessons from it. In fact, every challenge gave you an insight. Every failure made you wiser. Every difficult person you encountered taught you a lesson. You can actually use those lessons to improve the way you deal with your present.

Looking at the past introspectively is not bad as long as you are careful to know the difference between introspection and rumination. If you feel that, you are drawing lessons from the past, or enjoying the past, then it is more likely that you are being introspective. On the other hand, if your thoughts about the past are full of regrets and bitterness, or your thoughts have a repetitive automatic quality, it's likely that you are ruminating.

Joseph constantly improved the way he dealt with people through the learnings of his past. He learnt to be more matured and considerate in his dealing with people. His learnings helped him make his way from prison to palace.

Reconstruct the story of your past from a divine perspective

More than actual events of the past, the thing that bothers us is the story that we have developed around those events. There is a story that you tell yourself every time about the past. Is that story helping you or hurting you? Is that story binding you or liberating you? If it is not helping and liberating, why don't you change that story? Why not develop a new narrative around your past?

A past event that is bothering you has some unpleasant emotions attached to it. Try to develop a divine perspective about the event, which can dispel those unpleasant emotions. When this happens, you don't have to forget your past, which sometimes is not possible, but you become friends with your past. You can see a value in your past, however unpleasant it was.

As Joseph did, start looking at your past from different point of view. Develop a new story, this time making God a central part in it. Develop a heavenly perspective, which can liberate you from the g than an earthly perspective.

Settling your thoughts about a troubling past liberates you to become a person God wants you to become. You will be empowered to face the present with new energy. You will be able to see more clearly, the new opportunities for your future. God is calling you to press on, not to turn back.



Dr. Prasad Talluri leads the Strategy & Research Management Team in World Vision India, a non-profit organization. He has master degrees in Zoology, Theology and Social Work and a Ph.D. in Zoology. He is passionate about helping people solve their problems, reach their potential and achieve their purpose, through his work and writings. He lives in Chennai, with his wife Chandrakantha and daughter Mahima.

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John Allen Chau



John Allen Chau was born on 18 Dec 1991, in Vancouver, Washington, United States. As soon as he finished his M.D in Oral Roberts University and he started his journey as an American Missionary going all around the world serving the poor and preaching the gospel. Though his life looks simple, he heard the voice of the Lord to reach the unreached people at Sentinelesse, as his profession moulded him for the very purpose. On November 18' 2019, he reached the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. It was a stormy season. He prepared himself by prayer and by reading the word of God, so that God might lead him through his will and purpose. After the storm has passed by, he started his Journey early in the morning and reached the Island. He got down the boat and took some tuna fish he had with him. He turned around, and saw two Sentinelesse tribal men armed with bamboo bows and arrows coming towards him shouting in their language. John lifted his tuna and welcomed the tribe people saying, "My name is

John, I love you and Jesus loves you". They came close to him, he gave the tuna and all that he had to them and trying to communicate, why he came to Sentinelesse and that he wanted to stay. More armed tribe people came and surrounded him, he realized that something was wrong; they took all that he had and held him at gun point. As one of the Sentineleses tribal young men fired his arrow towards him which struck his bible, John backed off and got onto his boat.

The next day, he wanted to meet the Sentinelesse people again, and somehow reach out to them. His passion was burning like a fire within him, and he made another trip. Before leaving, he confessed to his friend saying, "The first one to heaven wins". He knew in his heart that at any cost, even at the cost of his life, will he preach the gospel to this people. Later that day, he reached the Sentinelesse, never to return. A team of fishermen came in search for him, only to find his dead body being dragged by the tribal people to be buried in the, "Shore of Sentinelesse Island". It takes a lot of courage and commitment to do what God wants us to do, what more can we do than to sacrifice our very lives to God. Our daily life in itself is a sacrifice, when we choose to live a life of testimony in the midst of people who don't know Christ as their Saviour.



Ms. Sasi Gujai, Teacher lives in Rasipuram, Namakkal district. Involving as a Senior advisor of Rasipuram ICEU.

For a Christian, lifestyle matters, not merely the right words. The total teaching and example of Jesus Christ demand a lifestyle that is noticeable to the average person. (Core Values p. 15)

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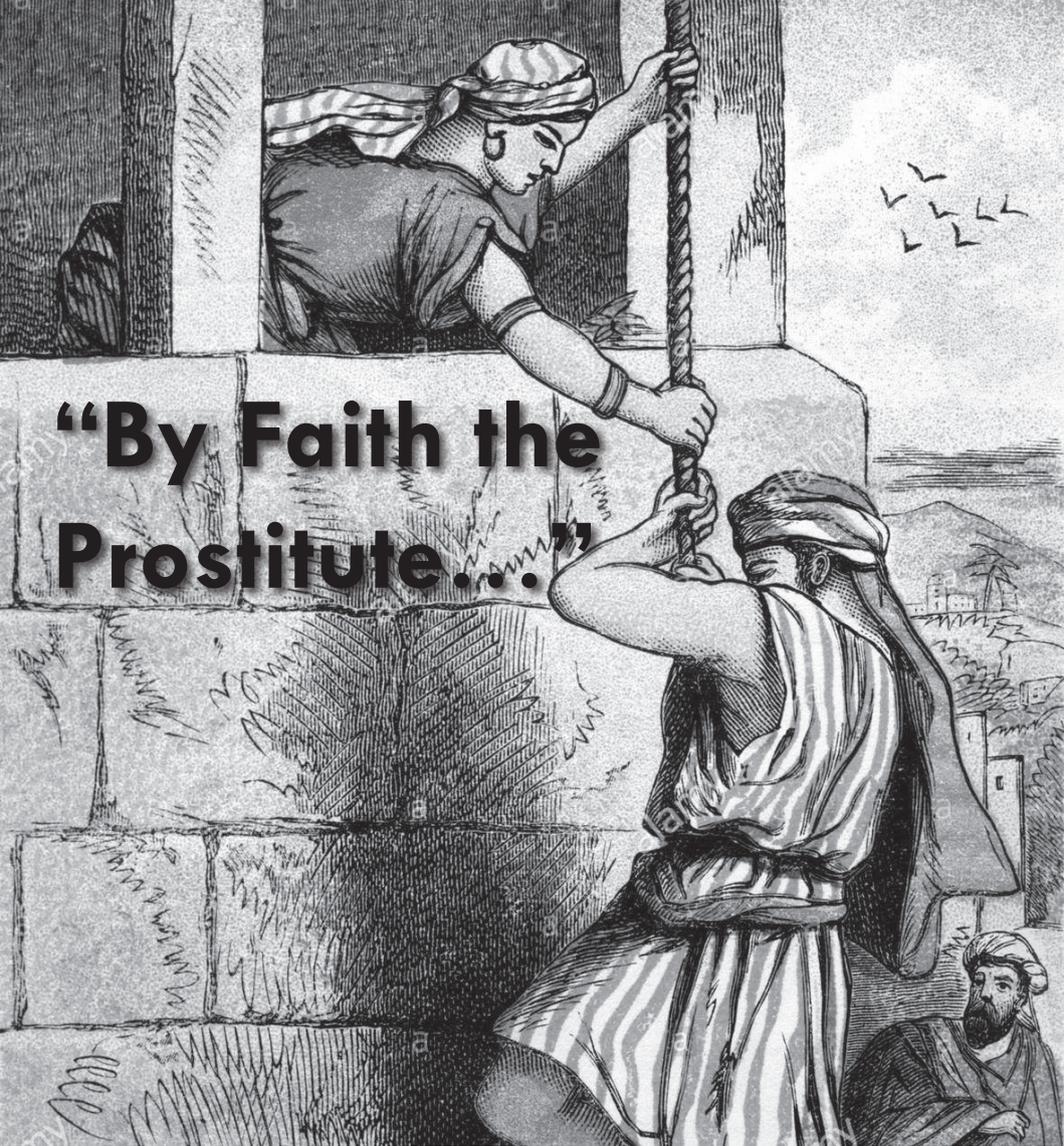
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“By Faith the Prostitute...”

How can a prostitute have FAITH?! I did. When I heard about the LORD, and what he did for the Israelites, I didn't take a long time to put my faith in Him.

My house was on the top floor in the famous Jericho wall—so wide that six chariots could run together on it! 'No one can break through into our city,' we said. But one day, some of our countrymen told us of the Israelites, the slave-turned-conqueror community – six lac men. . . "Their God delivered them from Egyptian slavery! They crossed the Red sea earlier

and now the river Jordan on foot! They've defeated the Amorite kings, and now they're marching towards us!" the men told us. Our hearts melted with fear... "We're doomed!" people said. While I wondered, 'Who could this God be? What kind of people?'

There was a knock at my inn. Two customers. They looked different. Their clothes gave out the smell of sheep and goats. "They're Israelites!" a passer-by whispered. A chill ran down my spine!

My uncommon name, Rahab means 'the great sea monster'. It represented chaos in ancient literature. I did bring chaos in the homes of my customers because of my profession. Sleeping with my inn-customers brought me extra income. I was a prostitute. 'But did these two men know that? Why have they come?' I wondered while placing a water jar in the room.

In a while, Jericho soldiers thumped at my door: "Where are the spies? Bring them out immediately!" they shouted. I didn't have much time to decide – either Jericho, or the Israelites! "One thing is certain – their God is powerful!" I thought. I gathered a lot of courage and rushed them to the roof "Hide under these flax bundles" I told them. Then I fooled the soldiers away.

I rushed up the stairs, thinking 'What now? The doom of Jericho is sure... Can I ask for a deal with these spies? Probably they may spare me. . . ' To my great surprise, they granted. I asked my relatives' lives too! "Our lives for your lives!" the men assured me. A bright red rope was what I found to let them down outside the city wall through my window. Salmon said, "Leave this scarlet rope hanging just here at this window." I nodded, and held on tightly to the rope till they silently slipped away in the dark.

A secret mission to save my family followed. My shameful inn turned into a haven of hopeful safety for them. But in the city, peoples' nightmares grew worse each day, till finally, everyone and everything was destroyed. Everyone except my relatives. All the houses in the wall collapsed! But mine stood straight! We heard the terrible noise of the shouting and running of the Israelite soldiers, all crossing the wall rubble into every street of Jericho.

“Spare this house” Salmon stood outside my door and directed his fellow-soldiers the other way.

“Yahweh has been merciful to us” my family turtled together and we cried. I felt the shadow of His wings covering us! Even the great walls of Jericho were far beyond compare to the safety I felt in belonging to Him.

The God of the Israelites took note of what I did to save two of HIS people, and brought me into His great inheritance! I couldn’t have asked for more!

Note: Renowned as a heroine of FAITH by the author of Hebrews, Rahab stands as a challenge before us as today. Rahab’s faith foundation: The saving work of Yahweh for HIS people. It was sufficient proof for her to choose Him above her own people, put her life at risk to hide the two Israelite spies.

As Christians, our faith rests in Christ’s finished work at Calvary. It is sufficient proof of God’s perfect and unconditional love for us. Now it is our turn to respond by showing our love for Him, doing all that we can to love His people. Let’s not wait long before we put our faith into action.

(To be continued)



Preeti Khristmukti is UESI Staff worker based in Nadiad along with her husband Mr. Arpit Khristmukti the State Secretary of UESI Gujarat. They have two children Jason and Susan. Preeti is CL editorial team member

READERS' RESPONSE

Dear CL readers, we would like to get your feedback about CL. Kindly send your constructive feedback to ***campus***.
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Hon. Editor

SOLID ROCK OR SINKING SAND



Just as the strata of time is above the foundation of bedrock, no matter how much time we spend with God or with His people, if we haven't built our life with Him as our foundation and not surrendered ourselves to Him then everything else is in vain. A few years back, before I had accepted Jesus as my Lord and Saviour I used to be active in fellowships and have my daily quiet time but my personal relationship with God would shake time and again because the foundation I chose was sinking sand. Now having my foundation built on the solid rock which is Jesus Christ, I do tend to shake at times and there are thunderstorms of sin all around me but I always come back to God who is waiting for me with love and forgiveness. There was a time when I chose to hear God's word, a lot, but didn't put it into practice. God wants us to be wise people who listen to His word as well as obey it. So let us not just be listeners but also doers of His word.

When we read the Bible, our goal shouldn't be knowing more about the Word but knowing God more through His Word. To

be strongly rooted in God's word is of utmost importance for our relationship with Him. We should not be satisfied in giving time to read His word but making it our focus and priority. Before reading, ask Him to speak to you. Your reading of scriptures should resonate in your heart as you contemplate your life. My dad taught me that what I read in the morning should dwell in me throughout the day. Hebrews 4:12,13 tells us 'The word of God is alive and active, sharper than any double edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow, it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.'

Every believer with a firm foundation in Christ has a redemption story, a story of moving from death to life. It may be different from that of others but each story can be used a testimony and is precious in God's sight. Acts 1:8 encourages us through the power of Holy spirit to bear witness to Jesus to the ends of the earth . Start your witnessing by praying for your friends, imagine the joy you'll experience when they also come out of darkness into His wonderful light. Encouraging your friends with small surprises, a prayer over the phone, reasonable gifts at times or even a hug will reflect an image of Jesus through you. It is wonderful to enjoy with them but never defy yourself with sin as a means to enjoy. Stand out from the crowd just as Daniel did.

One of the most heart throbbing and wonderful core values of UESI is that of open homes for God's people. It is not just a difficult option for us, it is our duty. Even the early church practiced hospitality. Acts 2:46: "They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts". There are families with small babies which need a lot of attention of their parents, (I remember my feelings when I was a baby) there are many joint families which require much coordination to function, there are families without a stable job, and those with unsupportive members, but with the strength of God we can surely strive to serve Him and His people. Step out of your comfort zone and take one step for God and you will see Him taking ten steps for you. In the words of my favorite author

(Elizabeth Elliot), "Live your life in reckless abandon for the Lord putting all your energy and strength into it." Even while enjoying a holiday we can have productive days and worship God. Rather than spending your day lying on your sofa or hostel bed with a box of pizza and watching Netflix you could take that pizza to your friend's place who is holding a Bible study and have a time of fellowship there; or if your friend is going through a difficult phase and is far from loved ones, you can spend time with them and pray with them. These things may sound like a cake walk but they are not easy when it comes to practicing them in life. They will be easily done only when you have a strong foundation in Lord Jesus and submit to Him in all you do. Remember that in all you do, let Christ be the solid rock on Whom you stand because all other ground is sinking sand. There are going to be times in your life when everything shakable in you is going to be shaken, those are the times when you have to remember that God promises to you a kingdom - a kingdom which can never be shaken.



***Ms. Stuti Farmer**, is studying B. Sc., 2nd year in Dehradun. She loves singing and writing. She is actively involved in EU ministry.*

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Let's take initiative for Gospel movement in our city as Jesus took in Samaria

Contd. frm. Pg. 15

Many in our cities are living depressed, unhappy; burdensome lives as all their efforts to have a meaningful happy life have failed. Their only hope is an encounter with Jesus. In God, we are the only ones through whom it can happen. THE CHURCH, the body of Christ through which Jesus, the Christ must go and meet the sheep outside the fold. Unless the body is willing and active, He (Jesus) cannot do it though He desires much. If today, we want to see The Gospel Movement in our city, then we (Church) also have to take initiative as Jesus took, we (Church) have to decide and be determined that I have to move in my city to share the gospel, build relationship with people, keep aside the pride of the so called "titles" and "positions" and become humble as Jesus became, to share the Gospel. Understand the urgency of providing the living water, then we will see the revival movement in our city as the revival came in Samaria that "many of the Samaritans from that town believed in Him (Jesus) because of that woman's Testimony (John 4:39).

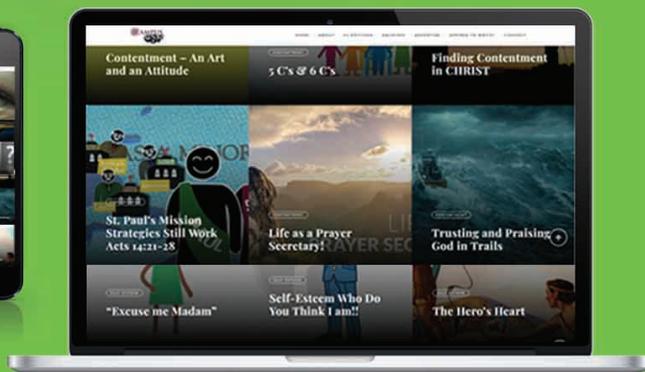
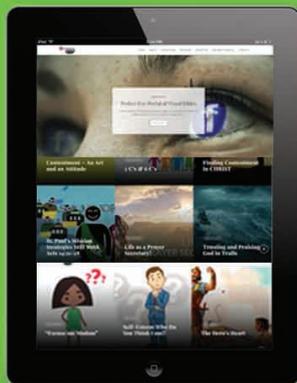
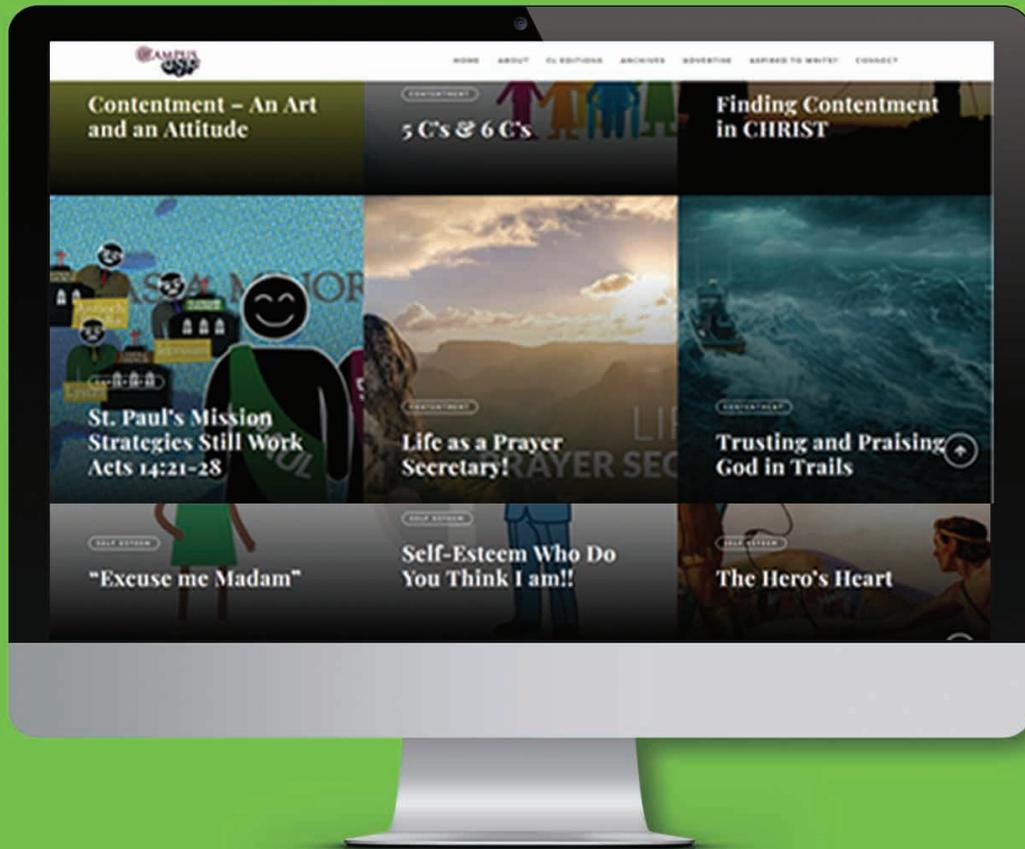
Jesus is looking for someone who will walk in His footsteps and do what others won't and reach out to humanity and bring Gospel movement in city.

May God use you for His Kingdom



Rev. Rahul Kuchekar, A former Computer Networking Engineer and Microsoft Certified System Engineer is a Theological Teacher and a Pastor in Delhi and He equips Bible College Students and Churches in Delhi & Dehradun for Evangelism. He is also committed to sharing the Gospel among Ishmaelite's group. You can reach Rev. Rahul Kuchekar at rev.rahulkuchekar@gmail.com

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