

JUL - AUG 2021
RS 20/-



Global Trends Impacting Campuses



A COVID LAMENT- How long, Oh Lord?

The young and old are wailing
in the streets; With their loved
ones covered in white sheets;

Infants suck on a dead mother's
breast; Orphaned children walk
with unrest.

Innumerable bodies everyday are
piled; Thrown as though an animal
wild;

The graveyard hisses and wags her
head; Open mouthed – looks to
devour the dead.

If this your indignation be – Oh
Lord,

To its fierceness, we succumb

How long will you watch us groan,
Oh Lord?

We crumble beneath your blow.

Health care system is crumbling;
Governments, to act, are fumbling;

In the street unknown fear
enslaves; Within closed doors,
uncertainty remains.

Although you cause distress and
grief; You are still our Commander-
in-Chief

One so compassionate and
abounding in love; You do not
willingly afflict from above!

If this your admonition be- Oh
Lord,

Have mercy and pardon us our
many sins;

However long it takes, Oh Lord
Keep us clinging to that rugged
Cross.

(Written after doing my daily
devotions on the book of
Lamentations; poem written based
on Lamentations from the Bible)



*Sarah Anji, and her husband Anji are Staff based in Dehradun,
Uttarakhand*

Trend Forecaster!

The generations today each span 15 years with Generation Y (Millennials) born from 1980 to 1994; Generation Z from 1995 to 2009 and Generation Alpha from 2010 to 2024... This newest generation (*Generation Alpha*) are part of an unintentional global experiment where screens are placed in front of them from the youngest age as pacifiers, entertainers and educational aids." (Mark McCrindle) <https://mccrindle.com.au/insights/blog/gen-alpha-defined/>

The Australian researcher, McCrindle has named this generation as Generation Alpha as he feels that after Gen Y, a new generation has begun and he calls it with the Greek first alphabet!

Don't we feel already threatened by the changing trends of the Generation Z, in the campuses today? Don't they look gloomy to us? But, wait! As God's people we need to move with them unbiased and with love. We have the Scriptures, that's the book forever!

God's Word will not be outdated, outmoded, or can't be augmented to suit to varying trends. Though written long ago, the Word of God is written to suit to the changing cultures, laws, generations, fashions and trends. The Word of God is as relevant today as it was, when it was first written. *"The grass withers, the flowers fades, but the word of our God stands forever."* Isaiah 40:8.

The present generation has generally drawn to pride than to piety, worldliness than to Godliness, seeking pleasure than purity, disobedient and ungrateful as St. Paul rightly forecast about the last days while writing to Timothy (II Tim. 3: 1 – 4). This makes us wonder, if the changing global trend was the reason!

The present globalization, impacting the economy and employment, has affected the social and cultural mindset of many young people. Their lives are constantly being influenced by these changing trends - culture, technology or social changes and they start losing their identity. It has impacted the lives of some believing Christian youngsters too!

We have the perfect blend of articles both on trends and present events written by competent men and women of God!

Have a good reading and remember to give your feedback on this issue to campus.link@uesi.in



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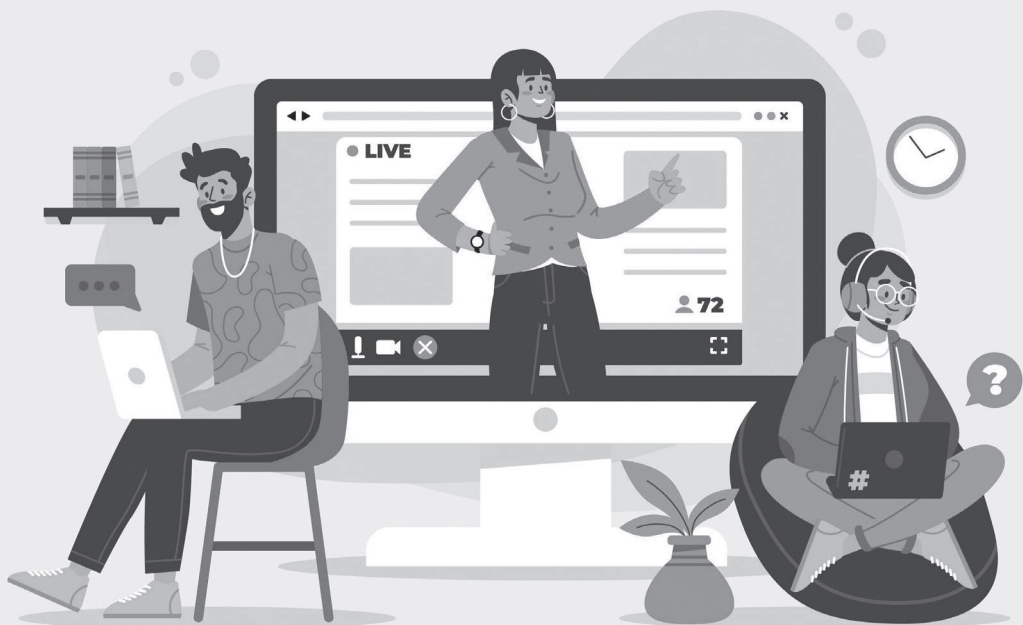
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New Trends of Students

Campuses are always changing as the students trends are changing. Change in student trends are directly impacting the campuses. How are changes happening in students? Students are impacted by the global changing trends of economy, politics, media, culture, fashions, entertainments, use of Information technologies, online lifestyle and various social media as well.

Online lifestyle, off the campus: There is an unprecedented trend of, off the campus studies due to the Covid 19 lockdowns and restrictions. There is no face to face interaction among the students within themselves and with teachers. Everything has become impersonal. Exams are delayed, Academics studies and years are affected, and students have become independent from the control of teachers. Students can sign in to on-line class and do whatever they want as most of the times they are muted and their videos are off. Parents and teachers are

helpless as students are highly dependent on mobile and internet for their studies. Even parents who were totally against their children using mobiles are now giving smart phones to their kids as classes are happening online only.

Social media: They use the online platform and social media like WhatsApp, Instagram, YouTube, Facebook, twitter, telegram, signal etc. They take pride in having maximum number of friends and the likes for their posts and reposts. And most of the times, the posts are all self-centered as to what they wear, eat, cook, their fashions, their emotions, their own celebrations and so on.

Over use of smart phones affects health: Since they are with the mobile phones always we never know what they are using it for. They chat with their friends or strangers, they enjoy Tik-toks, various internet games. Parents and teachers can't control the over use of the mobiles and internets. A few students said that except for timings of food & washroom, all the rest of the time is spent with the mobile phone. Their sleeping pattern is affected drastically as they stay awake late in the nights and the next day it is difficult to get up early. Many of them miss their breakfasts. They go for junk food as they use their mobiles for longer times. Also they do online order of food and all items of dress etc often. Doing exercises is forgotten in their lives, as they don't walk, but use vehicles even for a short distance for any requirements. Hence health is affected to a great extent.

Independence: The present generation is becoming very **independent**. They want to be independent for making their own decisions. They don't bother about the comments from elders. Generation gap comes in the way of taking suggestions from elders. Elders also don't understand and often are very judgmental about whatever the youngsters do. Parents also often don't understand them as they have their old mentality by being critical about dress codes, fashions and eating habits. Many a times they may not need advices, and they may want only listening ears, to be heard without being judged.

Fun loving: They are a generation of fun loving people. They want to instantly gratify the senses and sensuality. They love fast food, online shopping. They are not bothered about morality or moral standards, rather they want only enjoyment and experience in life which is a post-modern trait. Reading habit has drastically come down.

Multi tasking: and doing multi skill courses is a trend to somehow get in to any job and make money. They make money through YouTube, Uber/Olapart time driving, online jobs/trades as well. Also many are just planning to leave the country and go abroad with minimum educational qualifications. Consumer culture is tremendously affecting their lives. Credit card use and loans are also a very heavy burden on them. Misuse of credit cards and compulsive buying behavior are destructive facts in their life.

Indefiniteness & uncertainties: There is a lot of job loss and joblessness due to computerization on one hand and covid pandemic on the other. So students are also worried and anxious about their future and jobs.

Perverved sexuality: students are struggling in the area of sexual temptations, love affairs that end up in immorality that leads to extra marital affairs, sexual abuse, rape, teenage pregnancy, etc.

Loneliness & Depression: has become a common problem for many college students. Depression is one of the after effects of no social life. They can't go out as they want. They are getting bored as there is no out-door games/sports possible. Picnics and tours are affected. They are fed up with the commands of parents to help in the household chores.

Suicides: Many even from premier institutions are committing suicide due to depression, thinking wrongly that suicide is the only solution. Who will understand them and guide them to the right solutions in life?

After analyzing the lives of students what are the solutions?

Open homes can offer care to lonely students who otherwise may not be able to change their dysfunctional attitudes and interpersonal relationships.

Cultivate the reading habits by encouraging them to read time bound.

Senior committed students and graduates who have a burden for them can help them by understanding them and being available to them.

Encourage believing students to find other students in their class, college and locality to join the online meetings as they all are available on net and it is convenient for them to join from their homes.

They should be given an environment of love, care, listening ears, and non-judgmental atmosphere.

Identify with them in such a way that the generation gap may be reduced and help given may be relevant and appealing to them.

Be accessible to them, any time they want help.

Teach them valuable skills of managing time and money as faithful stewards.

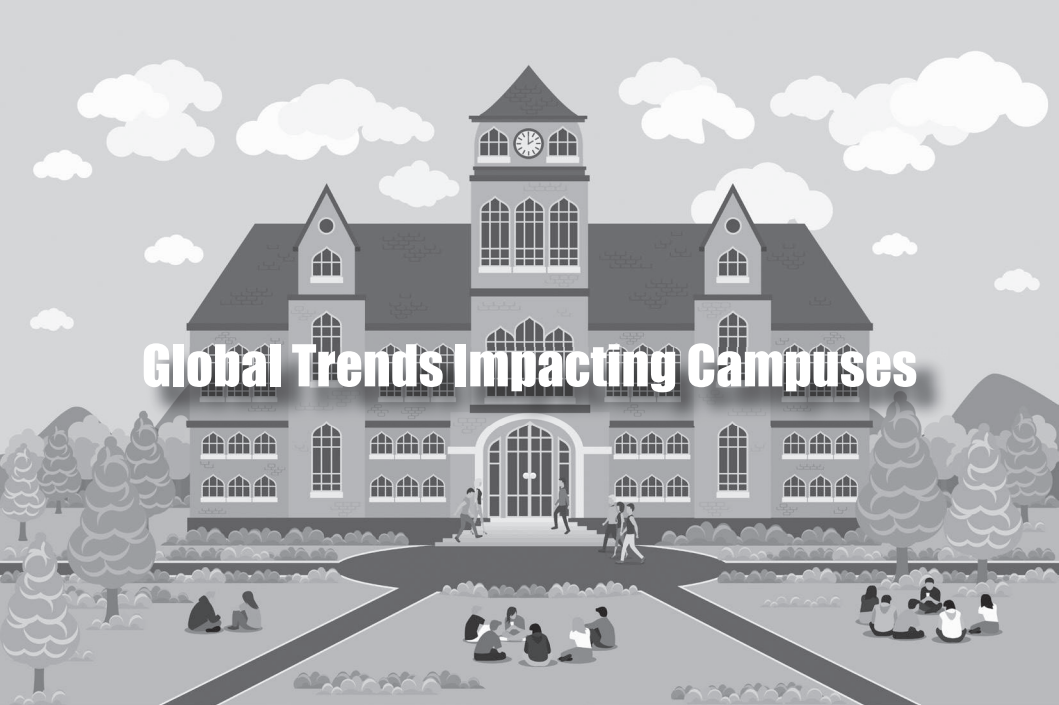
Teach them to seek God's will about choosing life partners and fulfill the plans of God in marriage.

Give them live examples of faith and practice in different lives that they will be excited to live a life of faith rather than anxiety.

Show them role models of practical Christian living and a life of faith.



Jose Thomas is the UESI Staff in charge of Missions Cell (Training Department) based in Pathanamthitta, Kerala. Wife, Lizy Jose, Daughters Mrs. Jyothis and her husband Aroon, Jwala and son Jeevan.



Global Trends Impacting Campuses

In 2019, IFES started a listening and discerning process that sought to help determine the fellowship’s strategic priorities for the coming decade. During this process, IFES engaged with representatives of the different stakeholders of National Movements, and particularly with students both before and during the World Assembly 2019, to identify global trends that are likely to impact student ministry

in their contexts. Additionally, IFES conducted desk research and analysis of external data to verify these results and to identify trends relevant to different regions.

Through these efforts, we identified 12 Global Trends¹. National Movements were then asked to prioritize the top three trends that they felt

1. https://ifesworld.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/IFES-Global-Trends-Report_ENG_Final.pdf

Spread of I****	Rise of Liberalism	Violence Against Women	Poverty
Higher Education Landscape	Creation Care	Mental Health	Corruption
Persecution	Immigration	Increasing Christian Denominations	Nationalism
12 GLOBAL TRENDS			



would most impact student ministry in their national context.

Unsurprisingly, in these surveys, **Corruption, Poverty and Persecution** were the top three trends identified by the South Asian participants. However, it is pertinent to note that there are other significant global trends that are experienced in South Asia and are relevant to the shape of what student ministry will look like in the coming decade, notably **mental health, violence against women, and a connected (digital) generation**.

Mental Health:

Every 45 seconds - someone, somewhere in the world ends his/her own life. The WHO reports that there are close to 800,000 people who die by suicide each year. Every suicide is a call to grieve, to lament. It is also a marker of the state of our mental health as a community. Analysis on the data in the Global Burden of Disease study indicates that in 2017, India had 15.6 deaths by suicide per 100,000 people; only

exceeded in South Asia by Sri Lanka with 19.8 deaths per 100,000 people. It is also believed that suicide is the leading cause of death in India amongst the 15–39-year age group. **Surely, students on Indian campuses are not immune to this trend!**

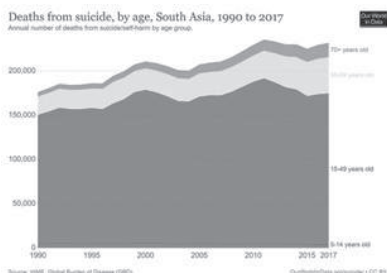
Violence Against women

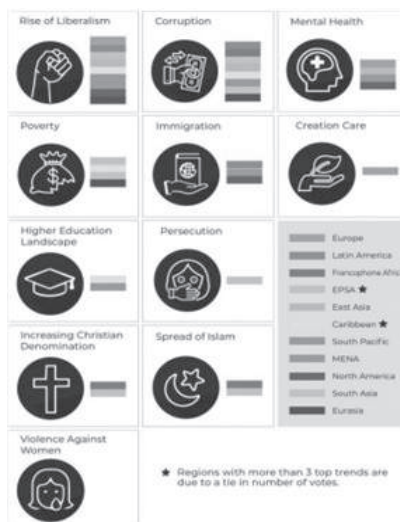
“Women in India accounted for 36% of global female suicide deaths in 2016, despite making up less than 18% of the world’s female population, according to a study in the October 2018 issue of the *Lancet*

“Violence against women is endemic in every country and culture, causing harm to millions of women and their families, and this has been exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic,” said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO director general. “But unlike Covid-19, violence against women cannot be stopped with a vaccine.”

Public Health. Suicide is India’s leading cause of death among women ages 15 to 29...”

The ‘fact & figures: Ending violence against women’ section in the unwomen.org site makes for ugly reading –





Globally one in three women have been subjected to physical or sexual violence or both at least once in their lives; Calls to helplines have increased five-fold in some countries over the pandemic year; Less than four women in 10 who experience violence seek help.

Yet, it was interesting to note that, in the IFES study violence against women did not feature in any region as a top priority of concern! **Are Christian communities immune or do we simply not see, hear, or speak of this evil?** At the very least, students in colleges come from homes and communities where they have witnessed or experienced violence against themselves and/or other women and at the worst, their college spaces are unsafe spaces for female students.

The Connected (digital) Generation

Connected but alone; Open to spirituality; Often worried and insecure; Many concerned about the state of the world around them and yet feeling personally uncared for – This is how the 'The Connected Generation Report' describes the 18–35-year-olds in the study commissioned by the Barna Group and World Vision in 2019.



Students attending colleges and universities in the coming decade is this connected generation. They can be described as Digital Natives. The digital world and its language are their '@home' language. Born between the years of 1995 and 2012/2015, they are also known as Gen Z. The Gen Z generation in India is said to be the largest in the world – around 400 million. The way they process information is perhaps fundamentally different to the generations that have gone before them. The reality by way of the

education system both within the Church and the formal education sector of South Asia, including India, remain the structures of yesteryear with increasing layers of surveillance and control by the State. A review of the extensiveness of digital connectivity of this generation in India and an understanding of the aspirations and challenges of this generation including the impact of the digital gap would be of critical strategic value to those engaged in student ministry.

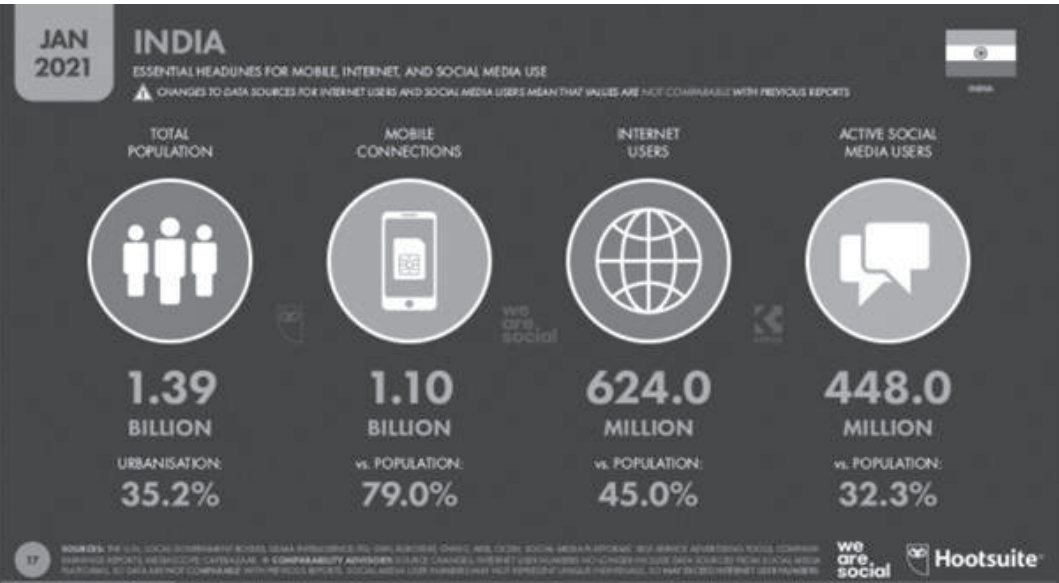
Digital Connectivity The reality of India

Internet connectivity globally stands at 60%. India stands at less than 50%. Nevertheless, the

number of smart phone users in India stands at 760 million in 2021 and expected to grow to just under a billion by the year 2025.

Gen Z - The reality of India

“The primary concern among In-



dian Generation Z youth was more job creation and employment. They are willing to vote for the political party that would solve this unemployment crisis (Beniwal & Pradhan, 2018)². It has often been noted that the Indian youth is a mix of conservatism and liberal attitudes. Generation Z in India is highly interested in politics (Nigam, 2013) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is the most preferred single party.”³

This then is the generation that is at home on the internet. It informs them, educates them, and forms them; it also robs them of time to reflect, time to rest. It opens the world up to them, expands their aspirations, and yet makes them vulnerable to the weight of comparison with an online persona. Engaging with this generation will also mean addressing issues of identity, financial security, vocation, and other issues that confront them. **How equipped are we to empathize with the aspirations and anxieties**

2. Beniwal, V., & Pradhan, B. (2018). India's Z Gen voters have a simple message for politicians. Retrieved from <https://m-ecomonictimes-com.cdn.amproject.org>

3. Shaheema Hamid & Meera Mathur. The New Generation Z in Asia: Dynamics, Differences, Digitalization. Page 92, Chapter 6 - Generation Z in India: Digital Natives and Makers of Change

of this generation? How sensitive are we to the influences, inequalities and injustices that shape our younger generation?

In conclusion, as we consider trends that impact campuses, we need to consider the changing Education Landscape in India as elsewhere. The primary change is that education is changing to adapt to the information age and to the labour market of the 4th Industrial Revolution. Others include the fact that education is becoming more accessible and that many more countries than before, including India, are hosting international students. In India, like in many countries, the space for intellectual independence and integrity is increasingly under threat. In the interests of seeking truth and the common good – We can agree with the Radhakrishnan Committee Report (1948) that “Intellectual progress demands the maintenance of the spirit of free inquiry.” Given these global trends, particularly those that impact the tertiary education space in India, the following are some questions to reflect on as we consider our calling to be ambassadors of the Kingdom of God in the University space.

In the context of a changing education landscape and increasing control of the education space by the

State – Can we encourage academic pursuits as a calling that equips & shapes men and women to seek the common good?

In the context of a 'Connected Generation', being educated likely in a hybrid model of in-person/online learning – Can we be intentional about engaging with them in their spaces and in ways that they internalize information?

In an age of significant mental health challenges within the student body – Can we strive to build communities of belonging, pur-

pose, and grace?


In the realities of violence (Against women, and other vulnerable groups), poverty, and corruption

– Can we nurture student fellowships to be prophetic voices that speak truth within their campuses, and be agents of reconciliation and change?

In the context of persecution - Can we encourage our student fellowships to be agents of hope, beauty, and blessing?

S**** *n,
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THEMES FOR CAMPUS LINK

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Sept - Oct - 2021 - "MY ROLE IN NATION BUILDING"

Last date to submit articles: 20th August

Nov - Dec - 2021 - "INTEGRATION OF FAITH & ACADEMICS"

Last date to submit articles: 20th October

different from how I'd seen it. These movements have been gaining momentum and especially now, campuses are increasingly participating in activism and seeing themselves as defenders of these ideas.

When I started university, I understood little about these movements, but I did at the surface agree that I certainly stood for equality and justice and didn't actively seek injustice upon any group. Many of you may be here right now. Over the last year, I've had the opportunity to dig a little deeper into the worldview behind social justice movements - and I've come to discover the atheistic worldview these movements are based on.

For young Christian students trying to find their identity as an adult, the fear of rejection from peers can be daunting. Social justice movements, at their surface, do not seem to pose a threat to the Christian belief, so it feels comfortable (and even right) to stand for these causes in the same way the secular culture does.

However, there are some fundamental differences between social justice - as seen in our campuses and biblical justice - the kind that is intended by God for the truly oppressed and downcast. Here are 2 fundamental differences between

modern social justice and biblical justice.

Social justice is about systems and power distribution between groups:

Modern social justice assumes that society is made up of systems and groups, with some groups having more power than other groups. The groups with more power use their power for evil and the groups that have lesser power are the victims of injustices perpetrated by powerful groups. Men, corporations, religious organizations (especially the church), and other groups are considered to have more power and therefore are inherently evil.

The bible does not make any such distinction. There are no "more evil" groups than others. Romans 3:23 says, "...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" and later in 1 Timothy 1:15 the apostle Paul writes, "...Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom *I am* the foremost." It's clear from this that it's not just a few groups that are responsible for the evils in the fallen world - it's everyone. Classifying people into victim groups and abuser groups by nature of their religion, sex, race, etc is not founded in the scriptures.

If we are truly in pursuit of equality or creating a more just world, it

is important to start from how God sees us all - fallen and needing endless grace.

Social Justice is about self-redemption, not a true pursuit to serving victims of injustice:

Social justice in universities is of an atheistic worldview, where you are your god. People all over the world and across time (including atheists) have recognized that we are sinners in need of absolution. World religions use works to absolve themselves of their sin. Social justice seeks to do just this, by creating a standard for good and striving to get there through human efforts. Politically correct speech, honoring only the lived experience of minority groups, verbal and physical violence against the oppressors are all ways to rack up karma points against one's name and feel less guilty about who we are at our root.

This is why you will find that all the activism in universities is often fueled by spite towards the oppressor groups and people who are viewed as allies to those groups. Violence in the name of "equality" is accepted and even encouraged. The Jews under Roman rule were hoping for a king to come and overthrow the Roman empire and set them free. However, Jesus came to establish His kingdom that was founded not

on power, but love. He lived this out when he prayed for the forgiveness of his prosecutors, at the cross.

While this article cannot go into all aspects on how to seek biblical justice, the idea is to point out that the emerging trends in universities could be, in fact, in direct contradiction to the Bible and the Christian faith. If you are interested in reading more about what the Bible says about justice, you can read the book *Confronting Injustice Without Compromising Truth* by Thaddeus J. Williams. So, when it comes to supporting or taking a stand on trends seen on our campuses, one needs to weigh the how it is impacting us at a deeper level, contemplating what the Bible has to say on a subject and communicate our stand wisely and articulately. If we can do this thoughtfully, it enables us to live out the third aim of UESI on our campuses - "To raise a testimony in the colleges to the truths of the Historic Christian faith and to present its message for the whole of life and problems of mankind"



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Starvation Deaths, Genocide, Counsel to the Ruler

Starvation Deaths?

Selfishness of man makes the forests disappear. So rain decreases, drying up water bodies. Agricultural fields get converted to flats and factories, hence food production decreases. In the cities which are “Concrete Jungles”, the rain water is unable to seep into the ground, so it makes its way to the sea; as a result the ground water dries up. The result is man-made famine and starvation.

We are in the days when all of a sudden some people become rich. We often hear these words, “*money is not the problem*”.

Yes, during a weekend, thousands of rupees are spent on a meal. It is just to take a break from the routine.

Many are not aware of the fact that, the same amount spent on partying is enough for a poor family's food for a month. Credit goes to the commonly available liquor which leads to the poor family's financial crisis and early death of the bread winner. So, many youth become school drop outs. Our extra wealth can help such underprivileged for their education.

A saying from Chennai: “*What is earned from Monday to Friday in the OMR gets drained out on the weekend in the ECR*”.

OMR – Old Mahabalipuram Road – filled with IT companies

ECR – East Coast Road – Beaches, Resorts, Eateries, Entertainment Parks

But a slave, Joseph who was in jail gives advice to his ruler to save the excess food and distribute it to the needy during the famine years. It reminds us of the saying of Jesus Christ, *"So when they were filled, He said to His disciples, "Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost."* John 6:12.

Joseph, the favorite son of the father becomes a slave in another country at seventeen, the prime of his youth. By false accusation by a temptress he ends up in jail. His teens and twenties were under bondage, but the Lord was with Joseph – Gen. 39:2,3,9,21,23. Fulfilling the plan of God, at the age of 30, in the matter of a few minutes, Joseph becomes the ruler of the same country where he was a slave – Genesis 41; Psalm 105:16-22.

Filled with the wisdom of God, Joseph guides the King and saves Egypt, other nations, and his own family from death by starvation.

As Evangelical students and graduates, we think, *"I am comfortable with my Church, EU/EGF fellowship and my studies /job."* God scorns at such people who live in their comfortable cocoons. If you remain as cocoons beyond the given time, you will remain a worm and die without any use for the world.

If Joseph was an evangelical Christian and declines to the King the

position of a ruler saying, *"I don't like politics,"* he would have missed God's great plan.

Genesis 15:13, *"Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years."*

Genesis 50:20, *"But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive."*

We have to grow out of the cocoon stage and fly as butterflies. We have to get involved in the social problems and by the wisdom of God we can bring abundance. We have to share our resources with the needy. Otherwise, we will be like Sodom.

"Look, this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: She and her daughter had pride, fullness of food, and abundance of idleness; neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy." Ezekiel 16:49

Racial Massacre?

Genocide continues in the history of mankind. People groups want to eliminate each other, infuriated by the divisions of caste, language, colour, religion, and place. Between 1941 to 1945, during the "Holocaust", Hitler killed six million Jews.

A similar genocide was plotted by a wicked minister and it became the King's verdict. In this situation, Esther, who was a slave girl turned queen, risked her life and prevents a Jewish genocide. Before doing this, she had some hesitation. At that time, like a thunder comes to her in the warning of Mordecai:

Esther 4:14, *"For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"*

Yes, our studies, position, possessions, money, and comforts – all these come from the Lord – James 1:17. (If you think even for a moment that you have all these because of your smarts, family background, your own knowledge and efforts, read Deut. 8:17 and Dan. 4:30).

God wants to use your position and resources for the welfare of others, for the Lord's ministry, for the good of your society. If we keep adding in a selfish way house after house, gold after gold, and live just for our own families, we will not escape punishment. After all, we are not going to carry our wealth with us after death!

God wants us to be sensitive to the problems of the society around us. We cannot close our eyes to the atrocities that happen around us. Keeping our mouth shut when we have to speak is sin.

Proverbs 24:11,12, *"Deliver those who are drawn toward death, And hold back those stumbling to the slaughter. If you say, 'Surely we did not know this,' Does not He who weighs the hearts consider it? He who keeps your soul, does He not know it? And*

READERS' RESPONSE

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Hon. Editor

will He not render to each man according to his deeds?"

Proverbs 31:8,9, *"Open your mouth for the speechless, In the cause of all who are appointed to die. Open your mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy."*

When we sit in the Committees and the Board Meetings and plan activities, do we listen to the voice of our God given conscience or take decisions to please people?

Galatians 1:10, *"For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ."*

Counsel to the Ruler?

Because of the dream and ego of a King, all the wise men of the country faced the verdict of being killed. Daniel was a young man born in a royal family but taken as a Prisoner of War to the enemy country. Because of his bold stand for God's standards, he got God's favor and revelation. He tells the dream and the meaning to the king. As a result, all the wise men escape. Daniel becomes a counsel in the palace during the rule of six consecutive kings – Daniel 1:21.

We as the children of God have to be like Daniel in discerning the events of the times. We have to qualify ourselves as counselors to the people of high authority. How many of us take efforts to positions like IAS? Or we are satisfied to be a Clerk all our lives? Do we encourage our students to aspire for greater positions in the Government?

"I don't bother if Ram rules or Ravana rules."—Children of God should not have this kind of lethargic attitude. We should choose our careers, keeping in mind the welfare of the society, and not just for our belly's sake or for money.

There is nothing wrong in going for job to the Western and Middle East Countries. BUT on what basis we decide it matters. Others go for money and comforts. But for a child of God, if it is only for money, comforts and facilities, you can miss God's best for you and regret later. God's children must know the mind of Christ and take up jobs that serve people.

We talk much about these Biblical Heroes – Joseph, Esther and Daniel, who made great impact in the Non Jewish countries – in our context, amidst the people of other faiths. As a result, the rulers acknowledge the

power of the Lord – Gen. 41:38,39; Daniel 2:47; 3:28; 4:34-37; 5:14; :16,26,27.

Cornelius, a Roman officer was *“a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always.”* Acts 10:2.

The Lord reveals Himself to him and to his people. God sends Peter to break the barrier of the “Jews” and “Others” and to share the Good News. Acts 10:38, *“God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.”* How about us today?

Tabitha was making dresses and giving to the needy. Acts 9:36, *“This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did.”* The Lord raises her up from death through Peter – Acts 9:42 *“And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed on the Lord.”*

James 1:27, *“Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.”*

James 2:15 - 17, *“If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Depart in peace, be warmed and*

filled,’ but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”

The Mission Statement of UESI is to bring students to Christ so that they will “Serve the Church and Society”. Is it carried out by us? The Lord has called us to be the Light of the World and Salt of the Earth. Is our life fulfilling this call? What is our impact in the Society today?

Can we make some decision to start this today?



P Jebaraj,

UESI Field Partner, Chennai. He and his wife Sasi Jebaraj retired from UESI Staff Team. They have three married daughters.

This article is an adapted translation of the article, published in the UESI TN magazine TharisanaSudar, April 2021.

Post Script: *From April 2021, India is facing a very severe onslaught of Covid. We have gone through the horror of losing people in our own known circles who were snapped away overnight. Their family members face terrible situations emotionally and economically. You and I are called to get into such situation and do all that we can by the grace and resources of God as individuals and as a fellowship.*

A black and white photograph of a man walking away from the camera on a wooden boardwalk. He is wearing a light-colored button-down shirt, jeans, and a messenger bag. He is holding a book or folder in his right hand. The path leads into a field of tall grass and shrubs under a cloudy sky.

**"GOD HAS CALLED ME,
I AM GOING."**

How many of us need to say it out loud today, what we are hearing from so long inside of our hearts? The gentle whisper that constantly reminds us of our calling when it says, "You don't belong here, it's not for you, the best is yet to come, you've not seen your best self yet, you are changing, you are becoming what He wants you to become," convincing who you are in the Lord Almighty.

From the beginning of this world, He has chosen you in him to stay pure and innocent in the sight of the Lord. Ephesians 1:4 says, "even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him." He has called you to

live this life, not for your family members, not for the society you're living in, not for your husband or wife, not for your children not for yourself too, but for Him. You have not chosen Him, He has chosen you. He has called you.

How many of you want to hear today what He has to say, what He has to reveal for your life? He needs to show you His plan for the future, He wants to take all the worries you've been carrying. He needs to participate in your life, wants to sit at your table and eat with you, to communicate with you, and to say how wonderful, powerful and beautiful His plan for your life is! Are you willing to accept His invitation for your life?

He says, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me." (Revelation 3:20)

Are you willing to open the door for your Saviour?

And if you have experienced how great He is! How powerful His plan is for your life! How gracious and good He is to you! How precious is His love for you! If you've tasted and seen how good the Lord is!!! If you are now experiencing His presence in every part of your life, every second of your day, every moment of your living, then it's time to say it out loud "He has called me and I am going, I am going to live it out, I am going to make it, I am going to win because I am more than a conqueror."

Those who are struggling to tell the truth to the world, to their family members, to their spouses or children, if you're willing to live for Christ and if you're trying hard to live it openly but facing problems to receive abundant life, now is the time to declare it to everyone, He has called you and you are going.

Don't be lukewarm. Be the one who God wants you to be. You can be that. It's easy with Him, In fact, it's beautiful with Him. It's time to say to your family, you've found a great

friend in Jesus who is willing to spend every moment with you, it's time to say to your seasonal friends who you think are your life, that you've discovered the way of life. It's time to tell your relatives, you've found the way, truth and the life. You need nothing from this world. If you're struggling to say this loud I encourage you to do this today, tell everyone around you how precious the Lord's fellowship is for you, how unique is His plan for you, tell everyone you are with the One who is the Creator of the universe. You shall lack nothing.

People may call you callous or rude for not being with them, but let me tell you, you're not what others say you are. "You are His child". (Ephesians 1:5) and moreover, you are called to stand out. (Romans 12:1-2) Tell the world around you that you've decided to follow Jesus, no turning back, no turning back!

Are you allowing the Spirit of the Lord to work in your life? Do you want to give the control button of your life to Him who runs the world? Simply, do you trust Him? Is there anything that is stopping you from following Jesus? Is there anything you're still struggling with? Do you want the courage to say 'No' or His strength to surrender? Are there any hurdles coming in your relationship with God? Holding you back from

his sweet fellowship? Creating regrets over and over again, anxious thoughts, and worries of the future?

Then let me encourage you today that our Lord has everything in control. He is a Sovereign God. He simply desires your faith to work. Let nothing hold you back. The Samaritan woman broadcasted everything Jesus told her. God craves for the same bold faith from you to proclaim the good news. He simply wishes that you declare with your mouth what God has done in

your life. He wants you to testify His faithfulness and Goodness! He wants you to take the first step of opening your mouth. He wants your faith declaring "He has called me, I am going." And if you have already declared it and now living according to his purpose, remember not to drop the mic.



Silviya Christian joined Vadodara EU in 2017. Currently she is pursuing B.A in Psychology (2nd year) in MSU.

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Seek, Stay and Serve Him

Technology has created an environment for us to be able to work from home. In some cases, employers use apps like 'Uber, 'Menulog' and 'Dunzo' to send tasks to their workers' mobiles. After completion of the task, the payment goes to the worker's account automatically. As a result, social interaction and relationships between people have become limited.

Social interaction is vital for humans to talk and share with others. If it is removed then man has become like a biological machine. God has created us in his image to love God and fellow man. Our God is personal, loving, and relational. He

creates human beings in his image: relational, personal, and loving. He reveals Himself to us in a personal way and relates with us in a way that even the ordinary person can understand. Let us look at John's gospel and see how Jesus relates to his disciples and develops a framework of discipleship.

The Lamb of God:

John the Baptist introduces Jesus to his disciples as 'the lamb of God'. This title resembles, resonates, and connects with the Old Testament sacrificial system, starting from Genesis and Exodus. Jesus, the lamb is from God and he is God and he is with God. He has come to tabernacle with us.

Jesus, the Lamb of God is our substitute and our representative, who went to the cross to die for our sin. He rose on the third day and sat at the right hand of the eternal father. John, the author of the Gospel and the book of Revelation, reveals that Jesus is the Lamb that was slain, and has the authority to receive the scroll from his Father to open and read it (Rev. 5:6-7).

Jesus is the Lamb who will come to judge the world, Satan, and others who are not his own (Rev. 19:21). He is the Lamb of God and Lion of Judah who reigns forever and ever. What do we have to do? We have to bow down and worship him.

The disciples heard John the Baptist referring to Jesus as 'The Lamb of God' and followed Jesus Christ. Let us go through the passage to understand the three S's essential to follow him.

1. Seek:

After John the Baptist pointed the disciples to Jesus, they followed Jesus. Jesus turned and asked the disciples a question "What do you seek?". The Lord Jesus initiates the conversation with the disciples to know their intention (John 4:7).

The disciples had limited knowledge about him. They addressed him as 'Rabbi' and 'Teacher'. Later on,

after seeking him, they understood that Jesus is the Messiah (John 1:41). The disciples were with him physically and heard him explain himself directly. How can we know him now? John, the author of the gospel has meticulously articulated the reason for writing the gospel: to portray Jesus as the Messiah (John 20:31). What should we do? We have to read the gospel to seek Jesus and find him in the scriptures.

2. Stay:

The disciples asked Jesus, "Where are you staying?" Jesus replied, "Come and see" (John 1:39). Jesus invites unknown disciples to stay with him. They went and stayed with him. What a great privilege for disciples to stay with Jesus!

Being in his presence is important in a disciple's life. Adam lost God's presence and His wisdom in the Garden of Eden because of his sin. God wants to establish His presence among His people as He did through the tabernacle with the Israelites in the wilderness and as He revealed Himself to the prophets, kings, and his people on many occasions. Now, he has spoken to us through Jesus Christ, the Eternal Son. Jesus Christ invites his disciples to remain in his Word, in the vine, his love commandment, and in him (John 15:4,9,).

As a result of remaining in him, we produce fruits and become friends of Jesus. (John 15:5,7, 12 15,16). What a wonderful privilege to have Jesus as our friend! How does He remain? Jesus has sent His Holy Spirit to dwell in us. He will be our helper to point us to Him. He guides us and restores the presence which we lost in the Garden of Eden. He has given us the spirit of His son to call him Abba and Father. He adopts us into his divine family (Gal 4:6).

3. Serve:

The potential outcome of the disciples seeking and staying with Jesus is that they will proclaim him, the 'Messiah' to others. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him "We found the Messiah"(John 1:41).

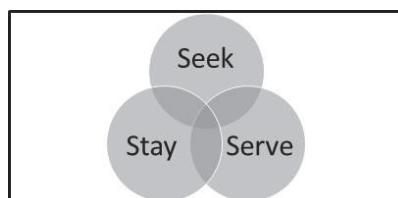
Just like John the Baptist, the disciples used the title "The Messiah" to encapsulate the whole scripture. The coming of the Messiah is foretold in Genesis when God cursed Eve (Gen. 3:15). The same theme follows throughout the Old Testament: Moses expects a prophet, Nathan's Prophecy to David about the expectation of a King (2 Sam. 7:14), and the reference of Isaiah to 'My servant' are examples. Cumulatively, all the Old Testament scriptures are pointing towards Jesus Christ as

the expected king. In continuation of the Old Testament, Matthew introduces Jesus, the Messiah as the son of Abraham and son of David (Matt 1:1).

God has taken the initiative to reveal Himself to us through his son Jesus Christ. What should we do? We must seek and stay with him as the disciples did. As a result, we proclaim what we find in him to others and bring others to Jesus (John 1:42).

A Framework of Discipleship:

A disciple is to have three important components: seek, stay and serve. I would like to explain this through a basic Venn diagram to fit in all three components. The size of the circles is the same, so they have equal weightage.



The above diagram reveals to us the importance of all three in our discipleship journey. If we only serve and neglect the other two, then we miss the vital part of knowing Him as Saviour and staying in his presence.

For seeking and staying, we need to have a regular quiet time, prayer,

and fellowship that opens up the treasure of knowing him as Messiah. Finding him as Messiah leads to proclaiming him to others.

Conclusion:

As the disciples sought, stayed, and served Jesus Christ, we have to seek him wholeheartedly to know him as the Lamb of God, Messiah. Staying with him is to be in his presence by reading the scriptures and communicating with him in prayer and having fellowship with other believers. As a result of staying and

seeking, we proclaim and serve Jesus Christ and point others to Him. As John the Baptist pointed the disciples to Jesus and Andrew pointed Simon to Jesus Christ, we also need to bring others to Christ. Let us seek, stay and serve him as his disciples.



Peter Daniel Joseph, lives in Perth, with his wife and two grown-up daughters. Presently doing Graduate Diploma in Divinity in Trinity Theological College, Perth.

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MY WELL-BEING, OTHERS' WELFARE!

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My well-being, others' welfare!





Friendship with God & Others

Friendship

How do we understand 'Friendship'? A friend is a person whom we get to know outside the family, mostly from our school and college, with whom we feel we share the same wavelength and hence we develop intimacy. This can be for short periods or spanning over many years. In my opinion, friendship should be understood as a concept rather than as a person and the concept of friendship can be inculcated into our other relationships also. So, who is a good friend? The English saying, 'A friend in need, is a friend indeed' gives the answer and the Word of God also gives the same answer through the

story of 'The Good Samaritan'. So, whoever understands us and our situation, identifies our needs and actually steps in to share our joy or grief, need or blessing, stands by us in wellbeing or sickness, wholeheartedly and sacrificially is a true friend for us.

Friendship with God

For a Christian, the Word of God teaches us to give the first priority to God. The Word of God describes Him as a holy God, an awesome God, a consuming fire etc. Because of these attributes, many a times, we put him on a very high pedestal and try to keep Him away from us; obviously thinking we are giving Him a very high position. But is that

what God expects from us? Do we do this to our friends? Obviously, No. We feel that our friend is equal to us and hence keeps him or

her close to us. Jesus Christ, being fully God, humbled himself to take the form of man, left His Father's side, came to this Earth, lived among us, took our sins upon himself, took all the torture in our place, and died on the Cross for us to become our FRIEND. In John 15:13 He says, "Greater love has no one than this; to lay down one's life for one's friends". As a song writer said, "I have found a friend in Jesus, He is everything to me".

Dear brothers and sisters, you might have many friends from different spheres of your life – but have you found the greatest friend in Jesus, who laid down His life for you?

Friendship with Parents

I see many people who give more significance to their friends, rather than to their parents – they like to spend most of their time with their friends, share things with them, take advice from their them, and run to friends in times of need and distress "Our friends understand us more, accept us as we are, and identify with us"

We come into this world, as God desired it, through our parents. Our parents spend sleepless nights

taking care of us when we are young, they invest their time and resources for us. They correct us so that we are more refined, and they always desire the best for us and in us. We need to understand that, when our parents direct us, they correct us, or guide us – they are not doing it because they are competing with us in any way that might be the case with friends and colleagues. But our parents do all this because they love us and always desire the best for us.

We may greet them on their birthdays or Mother's Day or Father's Day. But that's not enough. Our parents have been there for us in our times of need; so we ought to be there for them as a good friend in their time of need, especially in their old age. Can you be a good and true friend to your parents?

Friendship with your Spouse

Your spouse is your better half. The world may call a spouse a 'bitter half' and many youngsters opt out of marriage. Why does this happen? Because people share everything with their friends, but not with your spouse. Communication is the basic foundation of a successful family life. - two-way, transparent, and constant. Friends come and go in life, and you are never their top priority. But as for your spouse, both of you have exchanged vows

with each other and with God that, you will love, honor and take care of each other in all situations of life, giving each other the next position after God. You cannot hide anything from God since He knows you inside out. If couples have the same principle, take a vow "I do not want to hide anything from my spouse"; you will find a great friend in your spouse who will walk with you step by step, side by side, throughout your life.

Friendship with your Kids

Some parents are very rigid towards their children. "I am your parent. I need to be consulted, respected," etc. they say. This works fine till the child is a minor because the child is totally dependent on the parent for his or her food, clothing, protection, studies etc. But as the child becomes an adult, he or she breaks free from their bondage and just moves away developing other relationships which are mutually beneficial. Parents need to play multiple roles in the life of their

kids, initially as provider when their kids are small, then as friends when their kids move on to teenage, as facilitators when they emerge as adults and later on as peacemakers as they have their own families.

Friendship with Others

We have a lot of interactions with the world around us; some good, some bad; some short term, some long term; some beneficial, some incurring loss etc. If our vertical relationship with God is right, all our horizontal relationships with others will also work out perfectly, be it our friends, family, colleagues, neighbours, Church members or anyone. And that is what we need to strive!



Renjan Mathew Varghese, The writer is State Director for WWF-India and is based in Thiruvananthapuram with his wife Neelu, daughters Reeba and Ruth and mother Aleyamma Varghese. 98472 87725/ renjanmv@gmail.com



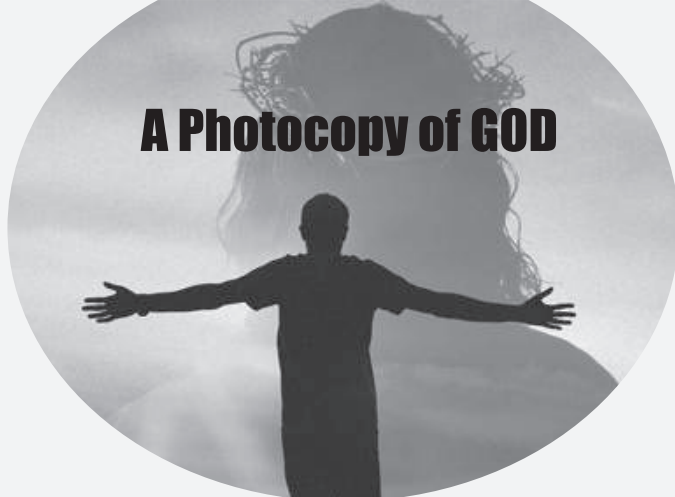
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*Disfigured and crushed
Dull as a dry leaf
Blown away with the wind
Hopeless
At the end of each day
That passed until
I heard
That the Creator loved me.
Until I reached
The foot of the wooden beam
Where a drop of Blood
Flooded new life into me,
A joy I hadn't known
Overflowed
To bring me to a resting place,
The Creator's Own Bosom.
"I will re-make you
To be my photocopy again."*

*While the echo of His Voice
continued
I saw a mirror.
His hands moved
To iron away the wrinkles
And erase all the stains
Through and through.
Like a child marks a coin
On a page with his pencil,
He etched His mark
Stroke by stroke
Till I could see,
This is not what I used to be.
More of your image, Lord,
More of your strokes
That engrave me to be your
photocopy
As You created me to be!*



Preeti Khristmukti, is UESI Staff based in Nadiad along with her husband Arpit, State Secretary UESI Gujarat, and two children Jason and Susan

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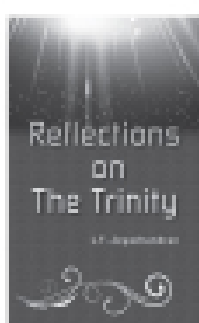
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