

## CHRISTIANITY: NOT A RELIGION BUT A RELATIONSHIP

**P-8**

# At Home with The Lord!!

**T S Abraham (93)**  
(05/02/2018)



Pastor T S Abraham was born to Pastor K E Abrham and Mrs. Annamma Abraham in 1925. In 1947, when Pastor TS Abraham

was a student at UCCollege, Aluva, God used him to play a prominent role in PYPA, IPC's youth movement in it's initial stage. He was awarded BD from Faith Bible College in USA and a Master's Degree in Theology from Clarke Field School of Theology, South Carolina. From 1953, he served as minister and center pastor for two decades in Andhra Pradesh and returned to Kerala in 1973. In 1974, he became IPC Kerala State Secretary and continued to adorn the post for 17 years and in 1989, he was the Secretary of State and

General Secretary at the same time. He also served the church as the Center Minister of Kumbanad Center and as the Principal of India Bible College. He retired from the official positions of the IPC in 2006 due to the physical constraints of his age. Pastor T S Abraham rendered three decades of spiritual leadership to the Indian Pentecostal church. The Church honored with the title "Senior General Minister". He was continuing as the center pastor of Kumbanadcenter during the time of his passing. His wife Mary Abraham went to be with the Lord in 2016. He leaves behind his son, Rev. Dr. Valson Abraham, his daughters, Anne Jacob, Starla Luke, Shirley Chacko and their families.

**Dr. K. V. Paul Pillai (86)**

(05/02/2018)



K. Viswanathan Pillai, whom everyone affectionately calls 'Uncle', indeed was a great visionary, an amazing personality who has trained and mentored thousands of cross-

cultural missionaries for about five decades in the heart of Northern India. He was highly praised as a mission leader, visionary, author and a powerful speaker who handled all these roles effortlessly, yet he never pretended to be 'one extraordinary'. His life is a story of adventures in the evangelization of the nation India.

He is the founder of Indian Inland Mission and Grace Bible College & Seminary (1971). Some of scholarly works include, India's Search for the Unknown Christ, Fundamentals of

Prayer, God's Blueprint for The Family, A Man after God's Own Heart, Moses, and, A People for His Name.

He leaves behind his wife, Annamma, sons, Rev. Ajay M Pillai, Rev. Sujay M Pillai, Bro. Vijay M Pillai and his daughters, Jemima and Jessica.

The towns and villages of India and beyond are never the same because of these visionaries who have made a profound impact on the mission front. There are many untold stories to be told and works to be revealed until the glorious appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ. We will have to wait till then!!

### Atheist Group Forces California School District to Cancel Field Trip to Christian Camp



A California public school district has canceled a field trip to a Christian retreat center after the nation's largest atheist legal group filed a complaint.

The Dixie School District based out of San Rafael has reportedly nixed its plans for a fifth grade field trip to the Alliance Redwoods Conference Center in Occidental, a Christian organization that has provided outdoor and science education opportunities to Northern California schools for over 30 years and serves 45,000 people annually.

The decision comes after the Wisconsin-based Freedom From Religion Foundation, which advocates for a strict separation of church and state, sent a letter to Superintendent Jason Yamashiro last month.



**Sam Brownback, Former U.S. Senator, Confirmed as New International Religious Freedom Ambassador.**



Kansas Governor and former U.S. Senator Sam Brownback has been appointed as the new Ambassador at large for International Religious Freedom. In a party-line vote in which Vice President Mike Pence had to serve as tie-breaker, Gov. Brownback was confirmed Wednesday evening 50-49. Last July, President Donald Trump had declared last July that he was assigning Brownback to the position of International Religious Freedom Ambassador. I'm looking forward to starting my new position as Ambassador and working hard for the American people and religious freedom

around the world," stated Brownback on Twitter. While in the U.S. Senate, Brownback was a key sponsor of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 — legislation that created the Office of International Religious Freedom, the ambassador position and the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom. David Saperstein, who held the ambassador position during the Obama Administration, told World Magazine last year that he approved of the Brownback choice. "This is a very strong appointment, and I look forward to working with him in furthering the cause of religious freedom around the globe," said Saperstein.

## ISRAEL TO BUILD LARGE NEW SYNAGOGUE IN EAST JERUSALEM'S AL-AQSA



As informed by the Israeli administration, a new synagogue is going to be built on the slopes of the Mount of Olives in Ras al-Amud neighbourhood in Occupied Jerusalem. Implementing on an area of 2,000 square meters with a budget of ten-million-shekel collected mainly from donors, the building is going to be a modern marvel. "The unique design of the prayer hall combines rare art and unique lighting, creating a wonderful contrast between ancient and modern".

The four-floor synagogue is going to be divided into two separate sections: the first is for Ashkenazi Jews while the second is for Sephardi Jews. The building will also include a number of classrooms belonging to a religious college to be established there. The synagogue will be built inside the well-guarded Ma'ale ha-Zeitim settlement, which houses 130 Israeli families, and will be used by Jewish settlers living in Palestinian neighbourhoods near the settlement.

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## Devil's Proposal to Hungry Jesus

Jesus the Son of Man faced many challenges in His earthly life. His life was a constant struggle from his infancy till He wrote it is finished on His body by His blood. Jesus life and mission were thus fulfilled and Christ was declared with power to be the Son of God by His resurrection from the dead (Romans 1:4). In fact, God the Father wanted the Son to go through it all in order to prove to the world and even to the devil, that this Savior is the perfect Lamb of God.

The temptations of the Son of Man were not mere a joke. It was real to the core. Since the children (of God) have flesh and blood, Jesus too shared in their humanity by being made like his brothers in every way, in order that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted (Hebrews 14:7,18). This does not reduce or defuse Christ's divinity in any degree. His human nature and divine mission did not suffer any set back by these hardships and temptations. Instead, Jesus ministry and the person of Christ outshone every attempt of the world, to discredit Him.

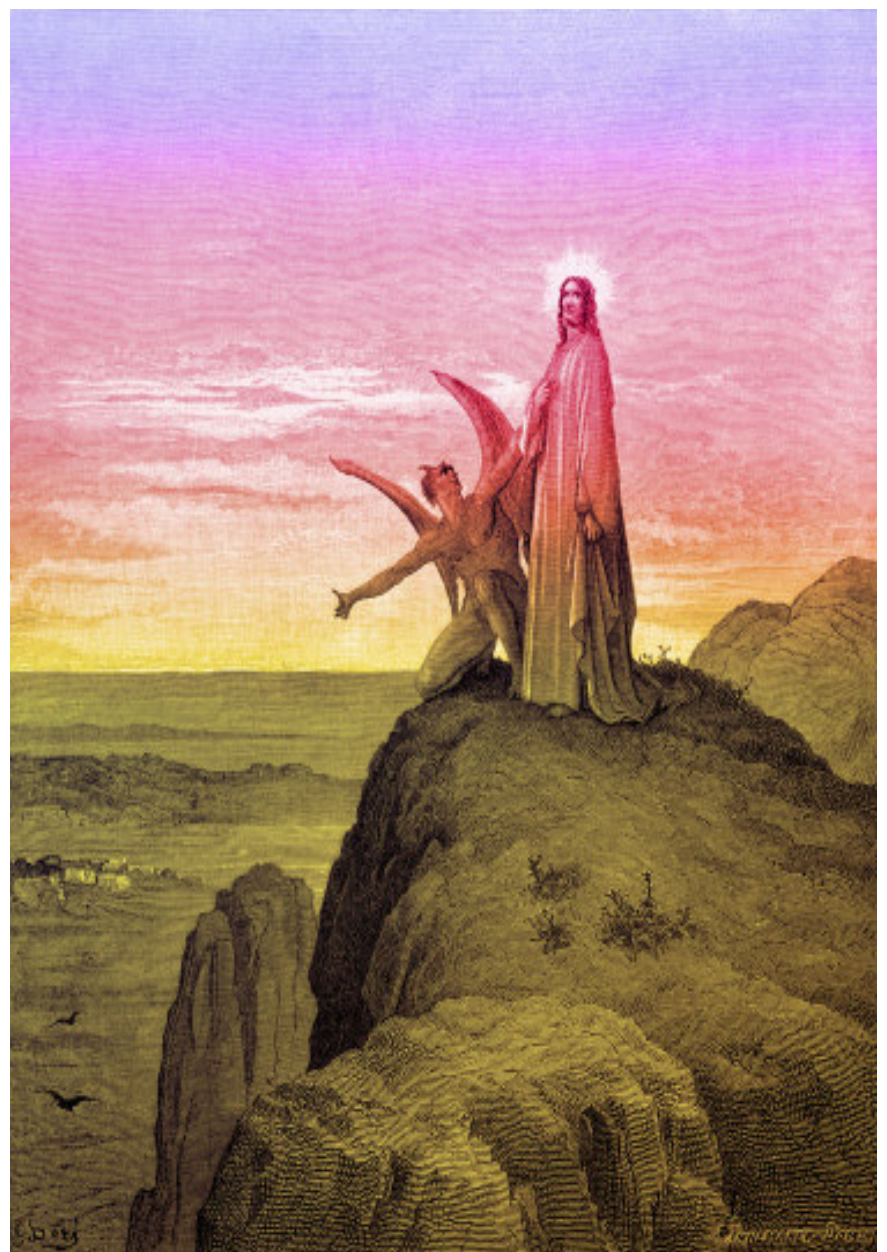
Let us approach the first temptation Jesus faced immediately after his baptism in the river



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Jordan by John the Baptist  
 (Luke 4: 3-13).

Jesus was in the desert for forty days. Apparently, desert is a difficult place to be in. There is no water there, no greenery, no vegetation; only endless emptiness. You'll love to have a company. You need to get directions to find a way out. You would love to get counseling, advises on how to survive in this extreme surrounding. Your need is well known to another person. His name is devil. He is very wise and well experienced to give appropriate advises and teach tactics on how to survive in the desert. Devil is also a good teacher. He asks right questions regarding our very existence, quotes correct verses from the Bible to impress us the genuineness of his motives. He knows how to make a point and when to present it before you. His



ministry is established ages ago and has been appreciated even by Eve and he is now bold enough to approach the Son of God with his business card. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread." He always

starts his sessions-with an if.

The basic human problem is hunger. We need enough food. If you are the Son of God, make a solution to the basic problem of poverty. Make enough



**FULL STORY ON - 03**

bread from these stones. Use your supernatural powers for a natural need. This is how this world also challenges us when we present Christ to the world. Devil tempted Jesus with the same philosophy. Jesus replied, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone'".

But what's the true solution of this bread issue? What should be the Christian response to devils proposal of making enough bread? Did Jesus the Son of Man leave such a grave issue of Mankind unanswered and unsolved? No, in few chapters down, Jesus gives us the answer by making lots of bread out of little bread. After preaching to five thousand men, Jesus felt that the crowd needs food. He asked the disciples to feed them! They replied that they have only five loaves for five thousand! Jesus asked them to bring it to Him. Luckily it was in the possession of a young boy. He gave the whole meal to those strangers with The Rabbi. Jesus took it and thanked the Father of all provisions and broke the bread and kept giving to His men till the five thousand got filled. This is Jesus answer to the devil. He didn't answer by making bread out of nothing or from the rocks on the mountain side. Instead Jesus used the generosity of a little boy to meet the needs of thousands. This is the miracle of God for us



**Jesus proves this point again by asking the disciples to collect the left over. ,What a miser! Who cares of such silly details especially after a grand feast and glorious miracle?!**

today to practice and to solve the problem of bread. God has already given in our hands the necessary provisions for us and for the hungry and needy around us. Share what you have, less or more, in the love and compassion of Christ, that The Father may bless it to the needs of thousands. Plenty is not always a sign of God's blessing. Jesus encourages us for a contented and simple lifestyle. Jesus in fact through His life and teaching uniquely simplified every areas of human existence. He said that a man's life does not consist in the abundance of His possessions. Christ Himself born, lived and died to prove that point.

Contentment is the attitude Jesus and the disciples followed.

Jesus proves this point again by asking the disciples to collect the left over. ,What a miser! Who cares of such silly details especially after a grand feast and glorious miracle?! Disciples might have murmured in their hearts while picking the fragments in the baskets. Jesus the Creator of every grain knows the value of each crust of bread wasted. By talking back to devil in the wilderness Jesus paved the way for us to overcome the temptation to see everything around us as things to fill our lust and

greed. Jesus also reveals to us the secret of His miracle of feeding the needs of five thousand - breaking and sharing.

This is My body broken like bread for you; This is My blood like water shed for you. Drink it and wonder. Eat it and marvel. God torn asunder and man-made complete! Yes, the Son of Man did not turn every rock into bread or every leaf into butter or cake. Instead He showed us through His life and death the only solution for our spiritual, physical, material and environmental bankruptcy, that we also may die to ourselves, to our greed, and live to God, and for the needs around us.

One fine evening, I too confronted that “scary aunty” of my church! She was known for her criticizing and making complaints about others. She started asking me questions that I couldn’t easily answer. Why I was where I was in life and why I was not married were some of the question she asked me! Knowing that it was not meant for my good, I stood still and went on listening to her. To my help that evening, came a friend, a young girl, who is also familiar with the same questions. She defended me that evening by asking that aunty, “do you think it benefits anyone to ask those kind of questions?” In the next moment, the auntie’s reign of terror was stopped and she had to back track. What I needed that day was given to me by someone who was willing to be themselves and love another person.

To be one’s self is a rarity today. People are constantly compared, criticized and ostracized because of who they are. Whatever standards their community has asked of them, Christians meet them all and in turn have lost a sense of themselves. In some ways, that is good and necessary, but if their lives are dictated by the standards of others, they never get to unlock the beauty of who they are!

Psalms 19:1 says, “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.” God had made the heavens for a purpose. Verse 3 and 4 continue, “They have no speech, they

use no words; no sound is heard from them. Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.” Without saying a word, when the sky does what the sky was intended to do, it praises God. Our unique purpose and our unique life is not meant to be fully understood by people. When we act how God has made us, it might differ than how the community wants us to be. Therefore, be faithful to the voice of the Lord as best as possible where you are at and whatever you do. When we are willing to be faithful, you may impact just one person or may be thousands of people. Whatever God has put in your heart for this life, give it. Because it is not for people we live, but God.

I leave you with 3 pieces of advice on how to discover yourself.

## Discovering Self

Sam Thomas

1. Read your bible every day. Reading your Bible unlocks many truths about you. Without fail, like you brush your teeth, read your Bible.
2. Recall your experiences. Your experiences are guideposts from God. God does not allow us to go

through what we go through for no reason. Why did that young woman stand up for me that day? Because she had gone through the same experience. She knew the pain and had to stand up. Let your experiences and pains not be in vain. Recall and

**FULL STORY ON - 06**



Sparkling Wisdom

Abigail T John



The highest form of worship is the worship of unselfish Christian service. The greatest form of praise is the sound of consecrated feet seeking out the lost and helpless. **Billy Graham**

One of the most important responsibilities in the Christian life is to care about others, smile at them, and be a friend to the friendless. **James Dobson**  
We may speak about a place where there are no tears, no death, no fear, no night; but those are just the benefits of heaven. The beauty of heaven is seeing God. **Max Lucado**

God created me—and you—to live with a single, all-embracing, all-transforming passion—namely, a passion to glorify God by enjoying and displaying his supreme excellence in all the spheres of life. **John Piper**  
He said “Love...as I have loved you.” We cannot love too much. **Amy Carmichael**

Faith does not eliminate questions. But faith knows where to take them. **Elisabeth Elliot**  
We never grow closer to God when we just live life. It takes deliberate pursuit and attentiveness. **Francis Chan**

God’s thoughts of you are many, let not yours be few in return. — **Charles Spurgeon**  
If you believe in a God who controls the big things, you have to believe in a God who controls the little things. It is we, of course, to whom things look ‘little’ or ‘big’. — **Elisabeth Elliot**  
Remember who you are. Don’t compromise for anyone, for any reason. You are a child of the Almighty God. Live that truth. — **LysaTerkeurst**

FULL STORY ON - 05

obey the scriptures.  
3. Ready to defend yourself. As you walk into whom God has made you, be ready for attack from people. People will not like who you are. Be mindful of them and acknowledge them, but remember that who you are is not

meant for everyone. You are meant to serve God. My friend who defended me was not liked by that aunty for her defense, but she had a job from God to complete.  
As the skies proclaim God’s works without a word, by walking as God intended us to walk, we will proclaim the glories of God. So start discovering yourself!!

The letter, sent by attorney Elizabeth Cavell, argued that because the camp has an overtly Christian mission and only hires Christians, it is unconstitutional to send public school children there. According to the conference center’s website, the camp’s mission is to be “a place of renewal where our guests meet the Creator in His Creation.” The Alliance Redwoods statement of faith declares “Jesus Christ is the true God and the true man.”

This is not the first time that a school has canceled a field trip to a Christian camp. In May, it was reported that an Illinois public school district canceled its plans for a seventh grade field trip to Camp Good News. The camp is affiliated with Child Evangelism Fellowship, the parent organization of the Good News Clubs that are held in schools and community centers across the nation. The district canceled the field trip after receiving a complaint from a parent and a secular activist.



**PASTOR. SHIBU JOSEPH**  
**B.D; MTH**  
**MUMBAI**

While teaching about covetousness, the Lord Jesus once declared “one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions”(Luke 12:15b).

Today, economy and its concerns are very high in the thoughts and perspective of human beings. Most of the countries are facing this terrible problem so intensively. The leaders are really in dilemma despite of their claims. The high taxation, trade regulations and high living cost make instable economic situations all around the globe. At the same time, on another side, rich people are becoming richer and poor becoming poorer. The middle class is struggling to survive. The economic crisis is not only the concern for the common people but it brings a worry also even among the God’s children as well. More than ever before, people of God now are mostly fond of to the wealth in the world. Many even follow Jesus for the earthly blessings as they erroneously think that materialistic blessings are the sign of God’s favor.

In this particular scenario, the words of our Lord needs a special attention. Perhaps Jesus did take more time to teach about the materialism than any other subjects. He emphatically taught that the abundance of possession is not the foundation of man’s life. Those who seek the wealth by ignoring God and his words will perish even without enjoying the life (Lk.12:20,21). Because every man’s

## MATERIALISM – A THREAT TO SPIRITUALITY

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time and destiny are in the hands of creator God.

### LESSONS FROM THE PARABLE

St: Luke recorded a beautiful illustration of our Lord regarding the vanity of earthly wealth(12:16-21). There was a rich man who got a bumper harvest very unexpectedly. Probably all villagers applauded and appreciated this man for his greatness. Some said really he was a luckiest man. Others whispered that God blessed him. Few got exclaimed. Rich man by hearing all these and looking into his superb harvest lifted himself to the peak of pride and shouted that he had everything abundantly and better to enjoy the wealth in eating, drinking and making merry. He then began to expand his warehouses to store up everything for himself alone. When everyone called him lucky, and wise, God sarcastically called him “fool”! Here what Jesus wanted to convey? Being rich does not mean that a man is wise or he is blessed. The Bible obviously states in Psalms that ‘ anyone who seeks after God is wise’(Ps.53:2). Many who make the efforts to become richer think that the wealth is the basis and remedy of all problems. The wealth never brings satisfaction (Eccl. 5:10). Jesus clearly and honestly commanded that everyone should be able to keep away from the greed for money. St. Paul also wrote to Timothy that “the lust of money is the root of all evil” (I Tim.6:11). *Doubtlessly, the materialism is becoming the mother of all anxieties today.* In fact, the wealth will lead us to more mental struggles and worries. What the wisest man says in his book is so meaningful: “the sleep of a laboring man is sweet, whether he eat little or much; but the abundance of the rich will not suffer him to sleep” (Eccl.5:12). Jesus added one more truth into it, saying “for where you treasure is there will your heart be also” (Matt. 6:21).

This man in the parable thought that he is wise. But God called him a fool. He never thought about God, never thought about the needy, and was not ready to spend for God’s work. Selfishness is foolishness, leaving God out of life’s plan and thoughts. It is also foolishness to assume that we may live for many years with our money. Our life’s existence is not based on the possession we have.

### THE LESSON TO LEARN TODAY

In these days, this kind of attitude (Selfishness) is obvious among the many so called spiritual people. The sharing is almost nil and they begin to amass the wealth for themselves. Spending money for unwanted things such as, to satisfy love for fashion trends, big mansions, luxury weddings, high costly apparels, luxury vehicles etc are some of the bleak and colorless symbols of our life today. Steven J.Cole, a pastor from California, has presented FIVE QUESTIONS in relation to the love for money: (re-quoted)

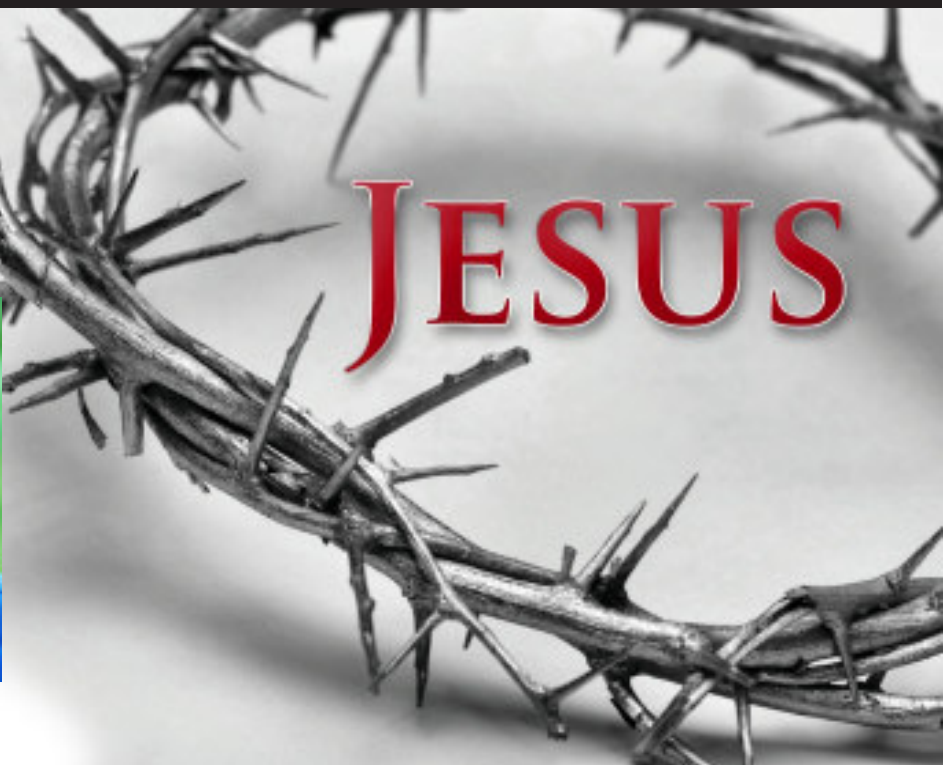
1. Am I thinking about materialism more than God?

**FULL STORY ON - 08**



The relationship between Christ and His people is very precious and obviously it is beyond words. Some consider Him as dad, a few as brother, some as friend and some as master. Our relationship depends on our feeling, attitude and thinking. If the bond with Christ is strong enough, then we can achieve the heavenly peace and blessings and power to move on in spiritual life as well as this world. In order to build this relationship, we must love the Lord and grow in Him, be a partaker with His sufferings and please Him with a life on the earth.

**Love Him and Grow in Him**  
Jesus said the most important commandment in the scripture is to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind" (Matthew 22: 37), we must obey this first. A good child



## CHRISTIANITY: NOT A RELIGION BUT A RELATIONSHIP

PASTOR SANAL JOSEPH, MANGALORE

of God grows each and every day and growing in Christ means to increase in

your knowledge of Christ, your love for him and in obedience. Growing in Christ is a life-long journey where every experience along the way offers to enrich us. We are given opportunities to grow, to develop a Christ-like nature that coincides with that of our Heavenly Father. As God shaped us, we were given the deposit of divine life (Psalm 139:13-16). Either we try to make ourselves grow in holiness and fail miserably, or we must yield and cooperate with the glorious intentions of God. We will find ourselves growing in Christ as we cultivate the ability to release all of our burdens to God. Even the best Christians tend to struggle under the burden of excessive worry. Jesus

reminds us that we are told not to fear for what tomorrow holds (Matthew 6:34).

### Be a Partaker of His Suffering

He suffered a lot for us to make us free so we must become part taker of his suffering," but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's suffering (1 Peter 4:13). It is a part of our Christian duty to become a partaker in all sorts of persecutions in the world. When we go through these difficulties and sufferings, we should not get discouraged because we are not alone in this rather Jesus is with us in the sufferings. As when a piece of silver is refined the owner of that piece be with

### FULL STORY ON - 07

2. Do I deny the godly nature in order to get material gains?
3. Am I finding the material things as my focus of joy rather than rejoicing in the Lord?
4. How do I respond when I lost the material things?
5. What shall I do if I get an unexpected material blessings?

These are the few questions we all need to ask ourselves. Today materialism is becoming a threat to the spiritual life and its progress. The spirituality, to many people, is just a time pass or means to get some gains. Jesus is only a need to fulfill their desires. Moreover, they limit Him to someone who does certain favors to them. He is now someone who gives job, or financial break-through, or success in exams, giving home, car or deliverer of debts etc. In order to do all these, it was not necessary for God to come down to the earth in the form of a man. He came to the earth not to multiply the bread or fill the nets with fish not even to raise the dead ones. All these were just part of his ministry over here.

We need to understand the Lord beyond all these things. His purpose was to give life abundantly through his vicarious death on the cross. He is the

### FULL STORY ON - 08



**FULL STORY ON - 09**

that piece throughout the process because he doesn't want to lose it but rather want to make it perfect and he knows the value of that small piece as well. Believers who are entitled to the greatest joys frequently must endure the greatest sufferings. Jesus Christ suffered more than any of His disciples were asked to suffer (Isaiah 53).

**Please God, Not the World**  
 Christians should be well spoken of and should "have a good report of them which are without." 1 Tim. 3:7. Of one of Paul's associates we read: "Demetrius hath good re-port of all men." 3 John 12. This should be said of every follower of Christ. But, nowadays, most of the people, attracted by the world, seek to find the approval of man rather than God's. Craving human praise is a cistern that cannot hold water. That is why Jesus tells his disciples how to pray and fast. Our hearts are so sinful that we can twist the purest of activities — even prayer and fasting — into something that conjures praise from our fellow men. We must be pleasing God not man. Please your own dad not the dads of this world. Your worth is not in your relationship status. Your worth is in your relationship with Jesus.

## Sara Bareilles Excited to Play Mary Magdalene for NBC's 'Jesus Christ Superstar'



"Jesus Christ Superstar" is the musical interpretation of Christ's last days from the perspective of his betrayer, Judas Iscariot. Robert Greenblatt, the Entertainment chairman for NBC, spoke highly about the casting of Bareilles for the upcoming musical. "Sara Bareilles has joined the cast of the NBC production coming to television next Easter.

The actress and singer who has appeared on "The Voice," "The Vampire Diaries" and "Waitress" said she was excited to appear in the musical. "To say I'm excited about this performance is the understatement of the century. This score and this musical have been a part of my life from a very young

age and it will be one of the great thrills of my life to sing these iconic songs," Bareilles said. "It's incredible to see the beloved medium of musical theatre being embraced by television audiences, and this cast and creative team is extraordinary. I feel extremely lucky to be a part of the project!"

One of the recording artists who have been cast is Tony and Grammy Award-winning singer John Legend, who has signed on to play Jesus Christ. Rock star Alice Cooper will be playing King Herod. The production is scheduled to appear on NBC Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018.

Mary Magdalene has officially been cast in the new adaptation of "Jesus

Christ Superstar." To say I'm excited about this performance is the understatement of the century. This score and this musical have been a part of my life from a very young age and it will be one of the great thrills of my life to sing these iconic songs," Bareilles said. "It's incredible to see the beloved medium of musical theatre being embraced by television audiences, and this cast and creative team is extraordinary. I feel extremely lucky to be a part of the project!"

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## Bolivian Government Makes Evangelism a Crime



The Evangelical churches in Bolivia are in fear as the socialist government has introduced potentially severe restrictions on religious freedom in the country. Article 88 of the mountainous South American nation's new penal code, authorized December 15, states that "whoever recruits, transports, deprives of freedom, or hosts people with the aim of recruiting them to take part in armed conflicts or religious or worship organizations will be penalized 5 to 12 years of imprisonment,"

"It is deplorable that Bolivia becomes the first Latin American country to persecute the rights of freedom of conscience and of religion, which are protected by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the declaration of San José de Costa Rica, and our Constitution," the National Association of Evangelicals in Bolivia (ANDEB) stated when the changes were introduced. The code "is imprecise, ambiguous, badly written,

contradictory, and its punitive power can constitute state abuse," ANDEB later stated after the changes were approved. Bolivia's population is 77 percent Catholic and 16 percent Protestant.

The article says that one commits the crime of human trafficking who: captures, transports, transfers, welcomes, or receives people, with the purpose of participation in religious or worship organizations," the organizations stated. "This means that one can be punished: a) who carries out proselytizing activities, in public or private, because they are 'capturing people'; b) who transports a person from their home to their church or religious temple, or simply invites them to the church; c) who welcomes or receives people to participate in a religious or worship organization, that is, who would commit this crime are pastors, rabbis, priests, parents, leaders, etc."

## Eritrean Christian Refused to Renounce Faith Even After 13 Years of Suffering in Prison



Eritrea, is a country in the Horn of Africa, with its capital at Asmara and bordered by Ethiopia and Sudan. An Eritrean Christian has opened up about the 13 years of suffering he underwent for his faith in prison, including being punished for months at a time in a confined cell where he could not even stretch his limbs. Despite the suffering, he refused time and time again to renounce his faith. In his late teens Shiden first came to faith, despite the country's antagonistic management of evangelical Christians. He joined military service at the age of 22, but was caught during a secret worship meeting with other Christians. From there he was moved to prison camps where he was made to suffer under harsh conditions, such as no sanitation, with guards taunting him and telling him to renounce his Christianity.

"I won't leave the faith because I believe it and I live by what I believe. I served this country faithfully and honestly during my

military service. When you sent me to work in the field, I did that without complaining. But my belief is my personal belief, and you have to respect that. But if you don't, then I am willing to pay for it." Later he was given two sheets of paper by prison officials, and asked to choose whether he believes in Jesus or not. Once again he stuck by his faith and told officials he was willing to pay the consequences, which is when he was moved to the general prison in Barentu, where he would spend the next 10 years. "He was often put in solitary confinement for six months at a time, staying in a very small cell where he couldn't stretch out his arms or even stand up straight," the report describes. At one point he was moved back to national service, but guards discovered sections of the Bible in his possession, which again had him sent to solitary confinement for a period of three months



**People Are ‘Becoming Afraid of Faith’ in America, Oklahoma Senator James Lankford**



Republican Senator Lankford of Oklahoma says that many people in America today are “afraid of faith” and that too many American Christians today treat their faith like a weekend “hobby.” James Lankford, who previously served as the director of student ministries at the Baptist Convention of Oklahoma and is a tireless voice for religious freedom on Capitol Hill, appeared as a guest on Family Research Council President Tony Perkins’ special National Religious Freedom Day broadcast of his “Washington Watch” radio program Tuesday. When asked to comment on the state of religious freedom in the United States, Lankford, who also serves as the co-chair of the Congressional Prayer Caucus, expressed his concern. “It is a really odd season for us. Religious liberty and religious freedom and the free expression of your faith has been a given throughout American history. Now for some reason, people in our country and this

cultural time are becoming afraid of faith and afraid of people of faith,” the 49-year-old legislator explained. Secularist and atheist groups like the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) and others who advocate for a strict separation of church and state continue their efforts to ensure that faith and religion are pushed out of public schools and the public square. Many Americans today are facing backlash and even legal action because they choose to live out their faith at work, in school and elsewhere outside of their home. “People are trying to put that up and say, ‘If you are going to have faith, that is fine to have it but you need to have it in your church, by yourself, with your family. Don’t bring it to your work. Don’t bring it out in conversation. Clearly, don’t bring it out in the public arena.” Lankford said. Lankford asserted that the strict separation of church and state is not what the Founding Fathers intended.

**Good Conduct Certificate Mandatory for UAE Work Visa Applicants**

Dubai Police General H.Q.

Date: / /

www.dubai.police.gov.ae

القيادة العامة لشرطة دبي

التاريخ: / /

Application for Good Conduct Certificate

طلب شهادة بحث الحالة الجنائية

Personal Details	Full Name		الاسم الكامل
	Nationality		الجنسية
	Occupation		المهنة
	Date of Birth		تاريخ الميلاد
	Place of Birth		مكان الميلاد
	Address		العنوان
	Telephone Number		رقم الهاتف
	Mobile Number		رقم الهاتف المحمول

Emigrants applying for a job in the UAE must first obtain a certificate of good conduct in order to be issued a work permit, a UAE government body has announced. The new rule will take effect from February 4, 2018. UAE Coordination Committee approved a Cabinet Resolution issued in 2017 stipulating that expatriates who apply for work visa in the UAE must first obtain a certificate of good conduct — issued by either by his home country or the country where he lived for five years. The certificate must then be attested by UAE diplomatic missions, or

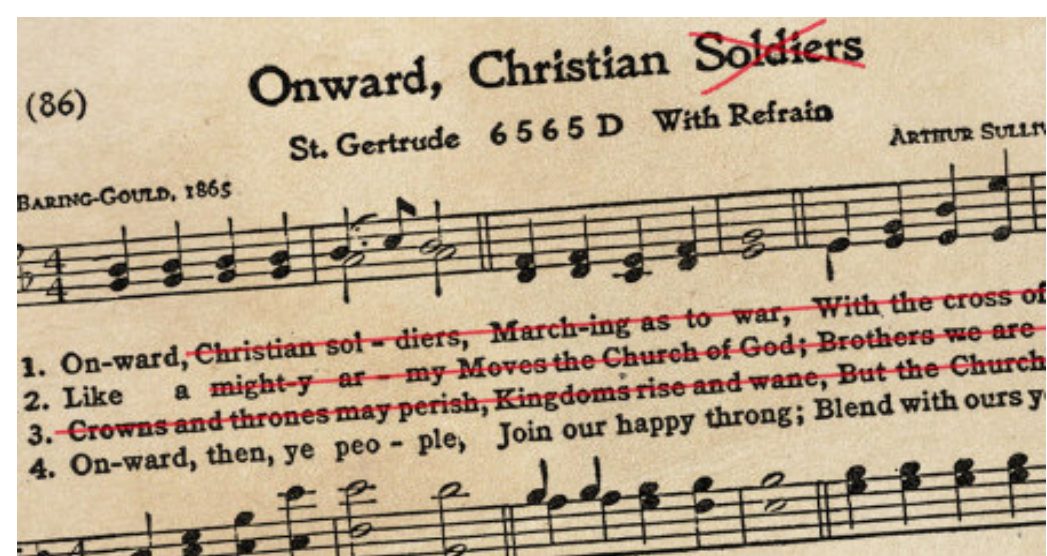
overseas Customer Happiness Centres at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. The committee, which consists of members representing relevant UAE government bodies, said the move comes as part of efforts to create a safer society. The rule also stems from the UAE’s belief in the importance of protecting community members and ensuring that they enjoy a safe life, making the UAE as one of the most secure countries in the world. The committee clarified that the certificate is not required from those who come to the country on a visit or tourist visa.

**Submissions Invited**

You are cordially invited to send submissions to The End Time News magazine, including articles, short stories, poems, cartoons, etc. If you would like to contribute, please contact us at our email address : [harvestingsoulsmission@gmail.com](mailto:harvestingsoulsmission@gmail.com)



# ‘Onward Christian Soldiers’ Should stay in Hymnals



A Michigan pastor whose columns on the intersection of faith and everyday life has argued that hymns like “Onward, Christian Soldiers” should not be removed from hymnals.

Shayne Looper, pastor of the nondenominational Lockwood Community Church of Coldwater, wrote in a syndicated column published that “there is still a place in our hymnody for

hymns and gospel songs that make use of military metaphors, like ‘Onward, Christian Soldiers’ or ‘Soldiers of Christ, Arise.’” Looper argued in part that hymns with military metaphors were acceptable because the New Testament itself is full of such metaphors. He also argued that military metaphors are also important because “Christians need to be reminded that they are part of something bigger, the advanced guard of a kingdom that is coming but

has not yet been established.” “They are on duty. The Christian life is not a walk in the park with the savior but a mission for the king. It calls for alertness, determination, cooperation, endurance, and strength,” he continued. Written in the 1860s, “Onward, Christian Soldiers” has been the source of much debate in some churches, with some arguing that its militaristic tone contradicts the peaceful message of Jesus Christ. Multiple hymnal editions of the Presbyterian Church have excluded the song; in 1989, The United Methodist Church almost removed it, but changed direction only after a strong outcry



# Harvesting souls mission



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