New Life Asia Weekly Newsletter 6 June 15, 2014

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New Life Asia Newsletter

Go and speak to the people all the words of this Life (Acts 5:20)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. (John 3:16-18)

God so Loved the World

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life" (John 3:16). We are very familiar with this passage. We know it by heart and sing it in our churches. It gave inspiration to preachers and poets. It breathed hope to many lost souls who had despaired of God's mercy. It has still something to offer to us, people of this century, pretending to know everything about the world, love, and life.

"For God so loved the world." The world created by God is so beautiful. There are wonders of nature and wonders of human creativity. Many of these wonders are located in Asia: the Himalayas, the Chocolate Hills (the Philippines), the Shwe Dagon Pagoda (Myanmar), or Taj Mahal (India). God truly loves this world. How about us? Are we in love with this beautiful world we live in? Why do we transform it into garbage? Thanks to us, this beautiful world day by day loses its beauty.

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"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son" (John 3:16). The reference is to Jesus' death on the cross. "God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners



Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). It was the utmost sacrifice on the part of God and it teaches us a very important lesson: there is no real love without sacrifice. Parents know it very well. Since God's love for the world is marked by the sacrifice, our love for the world need be expressed with a sacrifice as well. We have to be ready to give up our greed for more profit and power, and learn to live on less. If we want our children to appreciate the remaining beauty of this world, we must protect it by sacrificing our selfishness.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life" (John 3:16). Eternal life has very little to do with duration. Who would like to live forever in poverty or sickness? Yet, for many of us life is all about pain. We would sign our names under Jacob's description of his life: "The years I have lived as a wayfarer amount to a hundred and thirty. Few and hard have been these years of my life, and they do not compare with the years my ancestors lived as wayfarers" (Genesis 47:9). Yes. Few and hard are the years of our life, and they are passing swiftly. Eternal life refers to quality of life. Jesus said: "I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). Christian life is characterised by its quality. A.W. Tozer describes it in such a way:

The world is big, tangled and dark, and we are never sure where a true Christian may be found. One thing we know: the more like Christ he is the less likely it will be that a newspaper reporter will be seeking him out. However much he may value the esteem of his fellow men, he may for the time be forced to stand under the shadow of their displeasure. Or the busy world may not even know he is there – except that they hear him singing.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life" (John 3:16). Beautiful is the world we live in. It is rich with natural resources, magnificent sceneries, different cultures, languages, and religions. Let us, then, love this world created by God. Let us love people around us, even if they speak, think, or believe differently. Quarrelling, conflicts, and wars bring only destruction and death. Love gives life. Let us make an effort to bring a little bit of goodness into the world by our small sacrificial acts of love. Let us stop trying to live just for ourselves; it leads to loneliness. Let us reach out towards

others; it creates communion. May we always remember the wise saying of Talmud: "whoever saves one life saves the world entire."



War on Christians

Are you aware the Christianity is the fastest growing religion in the world? Here are the statistics.

Table - Numbers of Christians in Millions

1900	19

	1900	1970	2010
Africa	10	143	493
Asia	22	96	352
North America	79	211	286
Latin America	62	270	544
Europe	381	492	588
Oceania	5	18	28
TOTAL	558	1,230	2,291

Yet, every hour each day there is at least one Christian being killed for his/her faith, which means that each year has at least 8760 Christian martyrs. Some suggests that the number is much higher. However, this news hardly make into the headlines and majority of Christians in the West are not aware of this "human rights disaster of epic proportions" (Aid to Church in Need).

I am sure you have heard about Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo Bay. However, have you heard about Me'eter? It is a concentration camp for Christians set up by the government of Eritrea in 2009. Few thousands Christians are kept on the Eritrean desert off the coast of the Red Sea in metal shipping containers.

It is estimated that one hundred million Christians worldwide presently face interrogation, arrest, torture, or even death because of their religious convictions. It is time that we make a stand for our persecuted brothers and sisters. Their blood, like that of Abel being killed by Cain, cries out to God.

Trinity in Few Words



Long time ago God created this beautiful world and all that is in it. The angel of light, however, was so envious of God's love for the world and human being in particular that he rebelled against God and set up a plan to destroy God's creation. Since then, He has become the angel of darkness.

God had to devise a new plan to thwart the plan of Satan. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit sat together and discussed the situation. God the Father came with the only possible plan of salvation that for an onlooker looked like a failure. The Son volunteered to execute it, which meant giving up His own life for the world. The Spirit oversaw the work to make it successful.

For ages, this plan was hidden in God to prevent Satan from knowing about it. It has been revealed at the end of the ages and now you know it. God

the Father plans, the Son executes it, and the Spirit oversees it. He has plan for your life as well and it as a wonderful plan; if you put your trust in God, Jesus will executed this plan in your life; you will experience the power of His grace. The Spirit will be always with you to oversee your life so the angel of darkness will not harm you. That is the mystery of the Holy Trinity and that is the story of Christian faith.

Our Inspirational Book - Forgiveness Leads to Freedom



When the prophet Elijah stood on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart, an earthquake took place, and there was a fire. Yet, Elijah, hidden in the cave, patiently waited upon the Lord. Then, a gentle whisper came and everything was over. The Lord arrived; the wind, the earthquake, and the fire were gone.

When the disciples got into the boat and went ahead of Jesus to the other side, they were struggling against the wind and the waves. Yet, when Jesus and Peter climbed into the boat, the wind died down. The Lord was with them; the wind was gone. (You can find more in Forgiveness Leads to Freedom)

Concluding Prayer

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all (2 Cor 13:13)