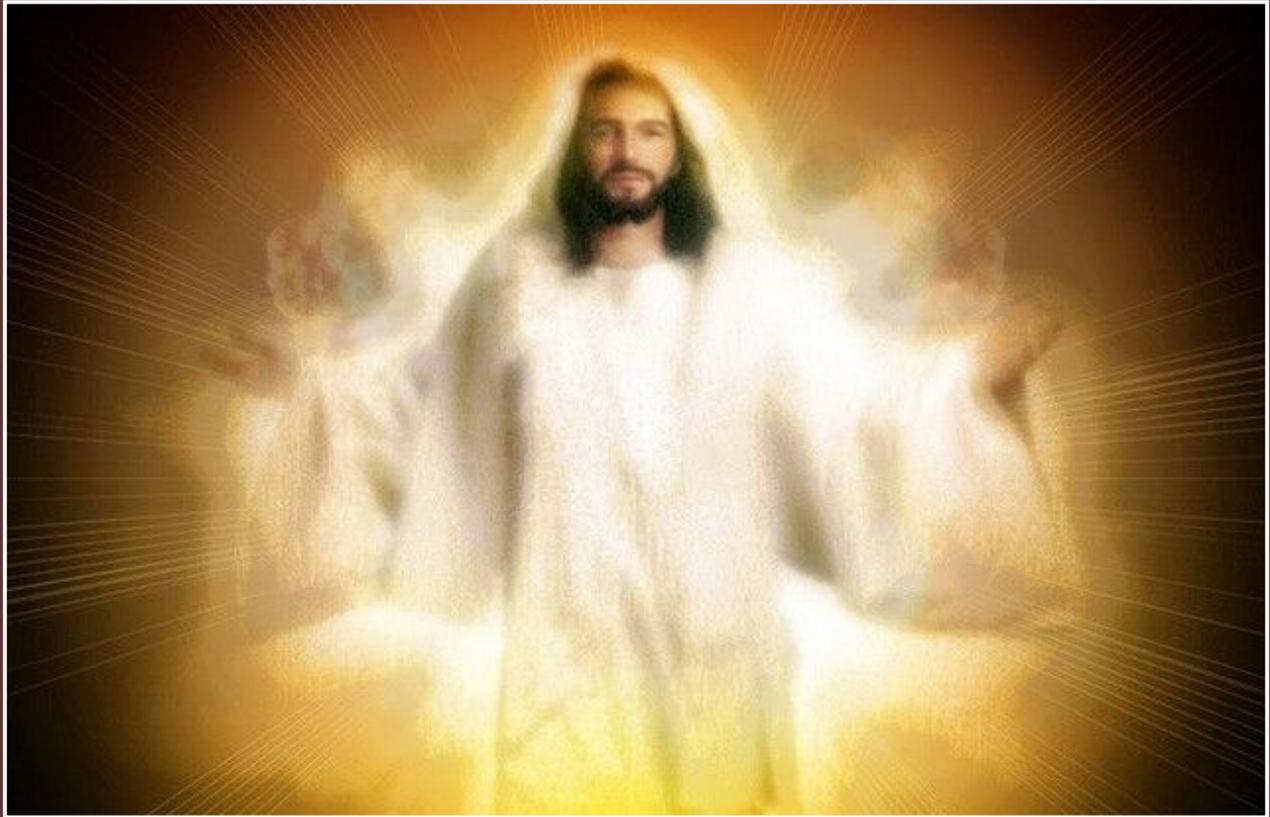


Jesus The Lord Our Saviour

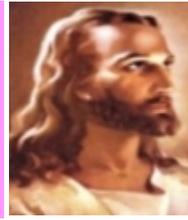
May 2011 Issue 7 Volume 1

(Not For Sale)



HE HAS BEEN RAISED, AS HE SAID." (Matthew 28:6)

BLESSINGS OF GOD BE YOURS...



**Jesus The Lord
Our Saviour**

"Peace be with you." (Luke 24:36)

Lord I praise You ! I exalt You !You alone are my comfort and wellspring of goodness ! O God who rose up with all power! I praise You .I praise Your great love and Your abundant mercy. You my God who are alive, I praise You! Lord God, I place my family and my heart at Your Holy Feet. You who spoke peace to the apostles, speak to my family and myself today. Say that peace stay with us, for I need Your peace O Lord. Lord there are innumerable troubles and mounting problems like enmity, hatred, torture, burdens, disease , doubt, alcoholism and so many more in my family and in my heart. Lord You meet several people as the King of Peace and as the One who is abounding in Mercy! Visit my family and my self today ! Lord free me from confusion and despair. Let there be no doubt and fight in my home. Lord You spoke to so many and granted them comfort and peace ! Today my family and myself need peace. Lord God ! Take away our burdens and feed us with affection and love in the depths of our heart.



Lord may lust, debt, disease, alcoholism, and troubles of witchcraft all vanish from my family and from me. Lord You are Great ! I know that You pay heed to my prayers. Lord grant peace to my family and myself. Bless me that I may stand without guile or blemish in Your holy Company. May Your Blessing and Peace always stay with me that I may remain steadfast in Your Love! Thank You my God ! Thank You for having listened to my prayers ! Lead me on with my family. AMEN.

Fr. V. Ignatius. S. J.

BELOVED IN CHRIST...



**Jesus The Lord
Our Saviour**

"Abide in my love." (John 15:9)



We had chances to pray and meet several thousands of people in the various dioceses of Tamil Nadu and Bangalore in Karnataka. We were able to realize how much people were longing and thirsting for the Lord. The Lord granted me an opportunity to place the different kinds of petitions of the people in prayer.

There are several troubles , incidents that cannot be enlisted, yet there are some that cause a big burden and disturbance in the midst of the people. Alcoholism- leading separated lives- tortures of lust- not being true to the other- problems of debts- enmity caused with division of property- unemployment- irregularities in marriage- dowry ill-treatment- physical ailments- diseases of the mind- doubting one another- evils like witch craft- worries due to youngsters- neglect of the elders- fears- harsh words- enmity caused due to these. We met several people who wept mentioning all these. There was **scarcity of love** in their personal and family lives.

Our Lord calls us that love may spring forth in our hearts and in our families. He calls us:

“ Abide in my love.”

“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.” (John 15:9)

The Mother of God who appears at Medjugorje reiterates this same truth.

She calls us saying that She would teach us the meaning of love. When we learn to love one another as brother and sister then we would also learn to unburden our problems at the Feet of the Lord. I wish that love and peace grow in your families and in your hearts.

Fr. V. Ignatius. S.J.

" HE HAS BEEN RAISED, AS HE SAID." (Matthew 28:6)



**Jesus The Lord
Our Saviour**

One of the basic tenets of Christian witnessing: Jesus Christ crucified. He was buried in a tomb after He died, He rose from death on the third day. St.Paul writes emphasising the same fact:

The witness of St. Paul

"For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: That Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures." (I Corinthians 15:3-4)

The Evangelists

The four Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke and John have written bearing testimony to this prime truth of immeasurable importance. Although the four Evangelists state the truth in the manner which is unique to each one, yet they all state the same truth: The crucified Christ has risen from the dead and is alive, He lives.

God who has all authority !

The 28th chapter of the Gospel of St. Matthew speaks vividly about the Resurrection of Jesus. The biggest witness borne by the Evangelist is that "Jesus" is the "Christ". He is "God's Son, the Beloved." (Matthew 3:17) He is the "King of the Jews" (Matthew 22, Matthew 26:63-64)."It is He who is seated at the right Hand of the Father." He will come again in glory and meet humanity.

Apart from the expectations

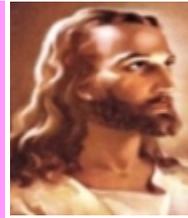
The twenty eighth chapter of the Gospel of St. Matthew speaks of the risen Christ appearing to His disciples, and the instructions He gave His disciples. But there is no mention of any one seeing Jesus rising or coming out of the tomb. The "resurrection "of Jesus was way beyond the imagination, thinking and expectation of the disciples. After they had placed the Body of Jesus in the tomb, the men and women disciples were filled with despair and worry. Even the Jewish leaders sent sentinels and guarded the tomb of Jesus carefully. They had sealed the stone that covered the grave and had a guard watch over the place with diligence.(Matthew 27:66)

Some of the women who were watching while Jesus was buried, they set out early in the morning to the tomb one day after the Sabbath, (i.e) the first day of the week (Sunday) to see the tomb and embalm the body of Jesus again . Contrary to their expectation,' there was a sudden earthquake and one of God's "messenger" rolled the stone covering the tomb, and was seated on it."

Who are the witnesses to the Resurrection?

The Gospels do not state how Jesus rose from the dead nor whether any one had seen it. An Angel " descended" and we read that it was this angel who first bore witness to Jesus' Resurrection to the ladies." But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, he said. Come, see the place where he lay." (Matthew 28:5-6)

" HE HAS BEEN RAISED, AS HE SAID." (Matthew 28:6)



**Jesus The Lord
Our Saviour**



The witnessing by the women

The women who heard the news given by the Angel returned with haste from the tomb shivering. They were scared on the one side and also happy together and they ran to convey the message to the disciples. Our Lord met them on the way they were going. 'Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him.' (Matthew 28:9)

This vision is an important event in the Christian faith. Before Jesus could die, several times He announced to the disciples of His Sufferings, Death and Resurrection. But it was the disciples who did not fully grasp or comprehend the essence of it all.

"From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised." (Matthew 16:21; 17:23; 20:19).

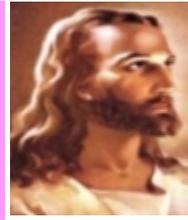
This was what the angel reminded the women saying, " He has risen as he said." The angel requested the women to reveal this truth to the other disciples. The women "ran hurriedly" overcome with joy and fear.

Jesus "greeted these women meeting them on the way. And when they heard the " voice" and the greeting of Jesus, they came forward hugged his feet and stood in surrender. (Matthew 28:29) Faith filled with affection is the foundation of Christian witnessing. This may be a shock to today's world. In this modern age which has seen a rampant growth in the fields of Information Technology and Communication Media and which overrule the world, wherever Godly wisdom has made an entry, there the tenderness and simplicity of the disciples of Jesus will be beyond the research and comprehension of the experts!

" For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power." (I Corinthians 1:17)

"Your faith rests not on human wisdom but on the power of God."(I Corinthians 2:5)

" HE HAS BEEN RAISED, AS HE SAID." (Matthew 28:6)



**Jesus The Lord
Our Saviour**

Jesus alone is everything

"Holding on to the feet of Jesus in surrender" alone is a life of service. Jesus Christ came to this earth only in submission to the will of the Heavenly Father. (Hebrews 10:5-9; Philippians 2:5-11).

He took on the plan and will of the Heavenly Father, ' humbled and emptied Himself to take the life of a servant', was obedient and thus humbled Himself '.

His action and His wisdom stands far above human research and knowledge. It was due to this that the disciples who were witnesses to the resurrection refrained from giving any explanation appealing to the human intellect. But they functioned and believed in " The Word".



A rumour

In the mean time several rumours had been spread by the Jewish leaders. The sentinels who stood guard at the tomb of Jesus were the servants of the Jewish leaders. The guards knew everything about the earth quake, about the angel who came and rolled away the 'tomb stone', about the ladies who agonized on seeing that the Body of Jesus was missing. They went and reported it all to the religious leaders. The leaders were confused due to this. They also sought to confuse the others. "They devised a plan to give a large sum of money to the soldiers, telling them, " You must say, " His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep." (Matthew 28:13)

'So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story is still told among the Jews to this day.' (Matthew 28:15)

" HE HAS BEEN RAISED, AS HE SAID." (Matthew 28:6)



**Jesus The Lord
Our Saviour**



Make disciples of all the nations

The Evangelists have not written the Good News with the intention of writing a scientific book or a history book or under any compulsion to prepare students for a Government examination. But they have written it as witnesses to an incident that occurs due to the Power of God and that which is beyond all human comprehension.

Jesus who appeared to the women, sent a message to His disciples asking them to meet Him at Galilee. ‘ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them.’ (Matthew 28:16) ‘When they saw him, they worshipped him.’ (Matthew 28:17). We can say that this resurrection incident is the prime message in Matthew’s Gospel.

Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus is the redeemer of all human races. The belief and unshakeable faith of the early Church is that all praise and Glory is due to Him and Him alone.

“The holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut , who shuts and no one opens.” Jesus ! (Revelation 3:7). Hence the disciples did not consider it necessary or important that the Words of Jesus and His action plan should be scrutinized or undergo Scientific experimentation or that they should pose great knowledgeable questions. Instead they realized and believed that Jesus has established the reign of God , that He lives as “ the Messiah and Redeemer of all people”.

They had this alone in their thinking and obeyed Him. They surrendered themselves to the Word and the Power of Jesus. They did not wish to establish a “religion” or spread rituals and dazzle the world employing any methodology pertaining to the evil one. They did not come to “ change stones to bread, “ to jump from a temple tower” or “ to fall prostrate before satan’s feet”. (Matthew 4:1-10) They didn’t even try to do so. The action plan of Jesus is very simple. It is very strong. Jesus did not create plans to build up a religion or to spread it. He did not teach the disciples any complex magic strategy. Instead He taught them to speak about Jesus to everyone in the world, that they might live as His witnesses, so He wanted them to call every one to be ‘His disciples’.

" HE HAS BEEN RAISED, AS HE SAID." (Matthew 28:6)



**Jesus The Lord
Our Saviour**

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20)

Those who belong to Jesus do not belong to any particular religion. Instead they are His faithful witnesses ! Jesus does not belong to any particular religion. A 'religion' is a 'compilation of some rituals.' Jesus is beyond any human frame work. Jesus belongs "to all peoples", "to all nations." "Several affectionate faith-filled witnesses" should increase in order that all may accept Jesus as their own.

May the Good News that Jesus alone is the "Immanuel" (Matthew 1:22-23) spread like a sweet fragrance every where.



" I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God." (Ephesians 3:18-19)

Fr.V.Ignatius.S.J.