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YCS/YSM National Newsletter

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Prize winning Essays & Poems
MY VISION FOR INDIA

A STEP TOWARD HAPPINESS

Outside his door a teenager stood,
Wondering what he was to do in the future,
He was about to enter manhood,
And would quite soon have to decide-
It didn't take him long to get an idea, and it was pretty good-
Observing all around him to figure out his goal.

At first, and most obviously, he noticed a thing called money-
Everyone wanted as much of it as could be kept.
"Sounds like a pretty good ambition to me"
But wait, who was that, walking down the street?
In clothes barely staying on, who was this man, so shabby?
The town miser, consumed by greed and utterly revolting.
"What's the point of money if it's not used?" - Wise words, truly.



Again he looked, and looked, and what did he find?
Power. Well, positions of power at least.
Presidents, ministers all these seemed quite respectful in his mind.
And just then, a car sped down the road, caring only for his own whim
Normally, driving so recklessly would be a crime
-However, the person driving was in 'Business' with the minister
"Why, this is no less greedy or any nobler than that miser."

Yet again, he looked and looked, 'cept this time it wasn't the same-
Instead of observing new people, he reflected upon what was already witnessed.
What everyone seeks is happiness-this revelation to him came ,
But he was still in quite a dilemma-how can this be achieved?
This puzzle, for himself he could not claim,
As it was one commonly shared-by everyone who ever lived.

So, to himself he made a vow,
To not seek happiness as a goal for the whole of his life-
But rather, to enjoy the timely little things life beholds now,
-And so he lived his life finding happiness in everything around.

Decades passed, and on his deathbed he lay-
His aged wife by his side-his now grown up children standing near,
And as he looked back at his life, he remembered that day,
He found himself to be blessed with a happy life.
"How funny-my goal was to find happiness in everyday-
Not in the entirety of my stay,
And yet here I am, content and happy to the fullest"
-This he thought to himself as he passed away.

- Antonio M. d. R. Pinto, Goa Region

EDITORIAL



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BE PART OF THE SOLUTION NOT PART OF THE POLLUTION.

Having any breathing problem? Even when you aren't an asthma patient? Congratulations, the air near your locality has been completely ruined. We say, we must protect our environment and shouldn't harm our nature. But do we actually practise what we say? The YCS/YSM has been advocating for the safe environment and clean air for the past several years. When you read this editorial, most of the cities in India have already reported poor air quality. Our national capital has reached dangerous level.

Once Fr. Chetan shared an incident with us in which there was a girl traveling by train along with a big delegation to attend a youth event. She was taught in YCS, not to litter in public places. She carried a black polythene and put all her waste in that polythene and made rest of the people in the compartment to do the same. When she reached the destination, she threw it in the station dustbin. Though people made fun of her initially, they appreciated her good work when she got down from the train.

There are things which aren't in our control and we can't help. But there are small things which each individual can do. Not for other people just for you. There's a saying that when you do something with your right hand don't let your left hand know about it. Don't start to care for our environment cause people are watching. Start to care for yourself and your coming generations.

As we all are aware of the air quality of Delhi, are we aware of the cause of it? Well, there are many causes like, stubble burning, vehicular pollution, factories, garbage dump etc. Though the governments are doing their best, we need to cooperate with government agencies and do our part to keep our environment clean.

There is a technique to protect the air by not burning waste by promoting composting methods, reducing garbage, less use of private vehicle, using public transport, avoiding unnecessary travel, using car pool etc. We students need to promote this.

We should be aware that polluting would eventually harm us only. So it's up to us, if we want to burn crackers on new years and other days or want to have more good quality air for longer period. Lets find a solution by not being part of polluter!

Ashita Jimmy
Editor - The Search

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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LET'S BE UNITED AND DEFEAT CORONA

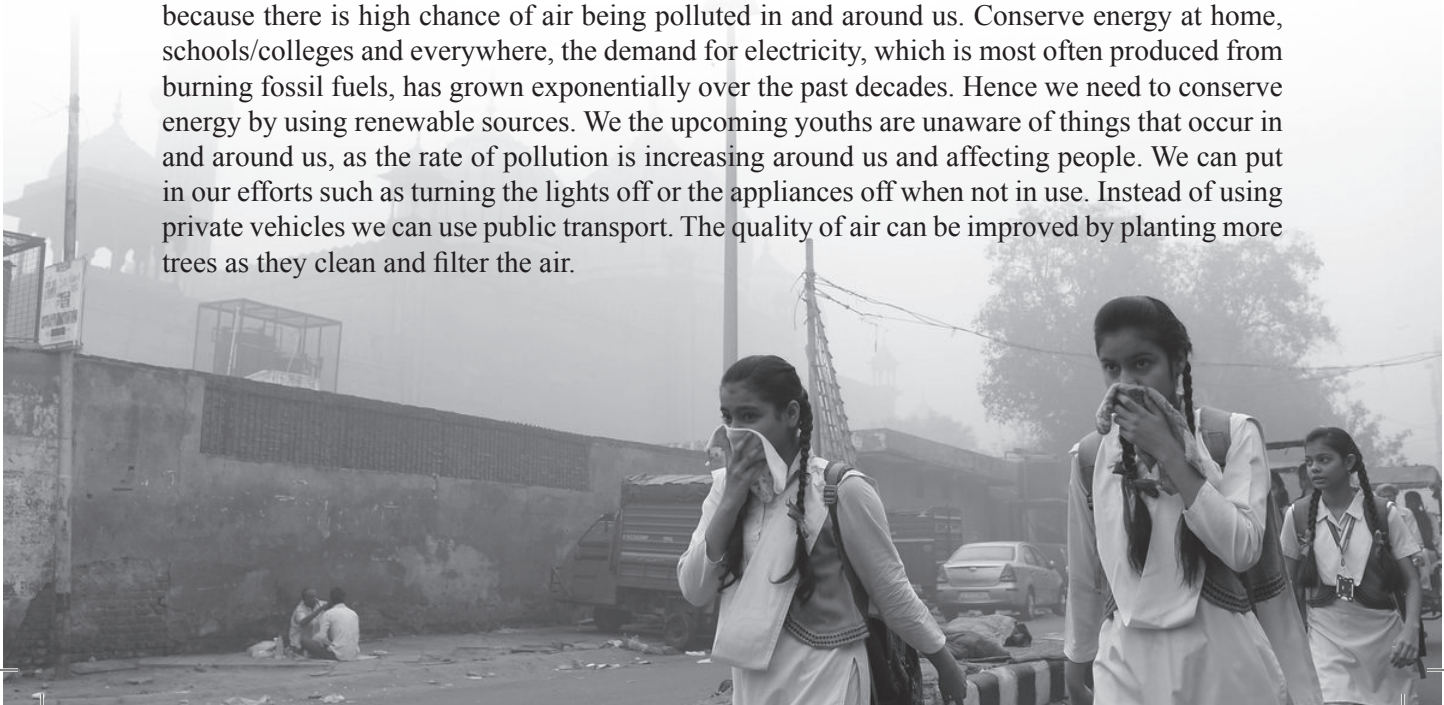


Greetings to all!

“Be a part of the solution not a part of the pollution” as the quote says how pollution has affected our lives. Earlier the air we breath used to be clean and fresh. But, due to urbanization, the increased concentration of poisonous gases in the environment the air is getting more toxic day by day. These are the main causes of respiratory and many other diseases. Moreover the rapidly increasing human activities such as deforestation, burning of fossil fuels is affecting our environment.

We all know how air pollution has affected our lives, from a stage where we used to inhale clean air to a stage where we inhale the most polluted air. When we buy certain things we don't compromise with its quality, do we? But when it comes to fresh air we hinder ourselves from having the best quality. Air pollution is indeed a crisis, but it's a crisis that we can solve and yes, a lot of people put in their efforts to solve this issue. With the booming industrialization in the country, pollution is an avoided concept as most people believe in making more money instead of being equally worried about their environment. Also, most people are chopping off trees and this adds more fuel to the devastating pollutants from setting around. Now that we all know air pollution can pose an immediate danger, we need to cultivate new ways to solve the problem. We as young students should put in our efforts to make our country free from pollutants.

Firstly we should limit the usage of vehicles as this will reduce pollution. Shifting to electric vehicles and hydrogen vehicles and promoting shared mobility/public transport system could reduce air pollution. If we are using firewood for cooking, then we need to reduce its usage because there is high chance of air being polluted in and around us. Conserve energy at home, schools/colleges and everywhere, the demand for electricity, which is most often produced from burning fossil fuels, has grown exponentially over the past decades. Hence we need to conserve energy by using renewable sources. We the upcoming youths are unaware of things that occur in and around us, as the rate of pollution is increasing around us and affecting people. We can put in our efforts such as turning the lights off or the appliances off when not in use. Instead of using private vehicles we can use public transport. The quality of air can be improved by planting more trees as they clean and filter the air.



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To sum up, I can say that the air we breathe is getting more and more polluted day by day. The biggest contribution to the increase in air pollution is of fossil fuels which produce nitric and sulphuric oxides. But we need to take this problem seriously and work towards eradicating this problem. As YCS/YSM'ers let us follow three R's **reduce, reuse and recycle** and make our environment fresh and clean which is one of the golden rule of being a YCS/YSM'er.

Let the YCS/YSM light shine

- Deril Dsa
National President



CORONA VIRUS: A LESSON OR A CURSE?

By now, most of us are fed up with this word "CORONA VIRUS". What's the first thing that comes to our minds when we hear this word? Pandemic? Quarantine? Lockdown? OR "I'm Bored", "Online Classes". Well let's take a minute break from all these and let's think in a different perspective.

Is this Virus Just a curse or has it taught us anything? Personally, I think that this Virus has served its purpose by being both a curse as well as a lesson. A Curse because it has resulted in the loss of millions of lives across the globe. Mode of Education has shifted from Offline to Online. We all can't wait to get back to our Schools and Colleges without any fear. Everyone is talking about the damage the Virus has done to different sections of the society. With businesses down, job market crashing, GDP falling, economy collapsing, we all have indeed lost hopes. But I would like to raise a question that is, does this fear still exist in people? Are we all taking care of ourselves? Definitely no. We people get used to the situation and think less of it. But we got to remember that the virus is still living amongst us and the harm that it can cause has not reduced. The least we can do is wearing masks. Our lives are precious and gift of god. Let's take care of ours and others lives.

With so much negativity and carelessness around, let me try to put a light on something positive. I'd also say that this virus is a lesson. Why? Because it has taught me so many things. Firstly, importance of life. Secondly, I realised how blessed am I for what I have. Thirdly, I have got to learn so many things and work on something that I never dreamt of. Also, the environment is healing. What more do we need? I would just like to highlight that this pandemic has also been a lesson to many. When we are busy talking of how much damage the virus has caused let's take some time from our busy schedule and realise the positive impact it has caused. It has given us time to think about it as well. Being responsible youth of the nation, being YCS/YSM members let's try to spread some hope around. Let's give it our best to get adjusted to the new normal. Ill conclude by asking you this question. Take some time and think about it. Is Corona virus a lesson or a Curse?

-Lizan, Udup, Karnataka region

ARE YOU BREATHING FRESH AIR?



As I write this article, it was reported that the first fifteen days of November were the most polluted days in the National Capital Region (Delhi). India is once again heading into the worst time of the year for air pollution, a season where the country's notoriously poor quality becomes even more toxic. Though there was a ban and restrictions during Diwali, people flouted those rules and burned crackers to make the situation worse.

Data available from various sources put Indian cities on the top with the worst air quality in the world, while Chinese cities have continued to show improvements from the previous year. According to CNN health report, twenty-one of the world's 30 cities with the worst air pollution are in India, according to data compiled in IQAir AirVisual's 2019 World Air Quality Report, with six in the top ten.

Soot, dust, ozone, and sulfur oxides are a growing threat for billions of people around the world. The World Health Organization in its report says 93 percent of all children in the world breathe air with pollution levels that exceed their guidelines.

Many different air pollutants can impact health — nitrogen oxide, carbon monoxide, and ozone, among them. But the database classifies air pollution in two ways: by PM2.5, particles smaller than 2.5 microns in diameter, and by PM 10, particles that are 10 microns in diameter. The smaller PM2.5 particles from sources like open flames and diesel exhaust can linger in the air longer and penetrate deeper into the lungs than larger particles, which is why they're the bigger concern for health officials and a high-priority target for reduction.

Technically, the WHO doesn't treat its data as a ranking but rather a measurement of where risks are. But it's clear from the report that India is one of the riskiest countries in the world to breathe fresh air.



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Frequent unhealthy levels of pollution from sources ranging from vehicles to the burning of coal and wood for cooking, burning stubble, industries, smoke, garbage dump, dust storms, or forest fires affect most of the country. India's hills and mountains also act as basins that trap toxic air over vast swaths of the country, sometimes making the air too dangerous to breathe. Delhi, India's capital region, home to nearly 19 million people, is notorious for choking air that is now turning the iconic white marble walls of the Taj Mahal green.

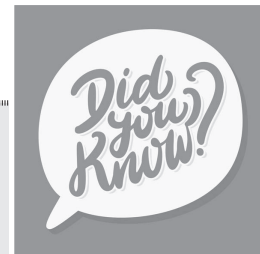
This data from various sources is alarming. At least now we should wake up. As we know the administration is doing everything to reduce pollution, they have failed in implementing most of the policies. We can't expect our governments to do everything. Governments can only make policies and laws. If citizens don't abide by these laws which are meant for our well being, we can't blame the administration all the time.

As students what can we do? What is our responsibility? Is it possible for us to breathe fresh air and see a clean environment during our life time? I feel it is possible provided we begin to work NOW. We need to care for this generation and coming generations. This edition of *the Search* has many articles where our students have suggested many remedies or small things that we students can do. Lets not wait for others to start...lets begin TODAY.

(data collected from various sources)

-Fr. Chetan Machado

National Chaplain



Worsening air quality is a pan-India problem: 76 percent of Indians live in places that do not meet national air quality standards. This means that air pollution in India is not a problem restricted to winters in Delhi or to India's cities; in fact, no Indian state achieves pollution levels at or below the World Health Organisation's (WHO) limits.

Air pollution is a leading risk factor for death: One in eight deaths in India was attributable to air pollution in 2017. Additionally, at 1.24 million, the deaths caused by air pollution are more than those caused by diarrhoea, tuberculosis, HIV, or malaria. The health cost of this is as high as USD 80 billion.

The elderly are disproportionately affected: About half of these 1.24 million deaths are of people over the age of 70, making the elderly among the most vulnerable to air pollution, in addition to women, children, and low-income communities.

The average life expectancy of a child is reduced by at least 2.6 years. Additionally, 10 percent of all under-five deaths in 2016 were caused by worsening air quality.

New research indicates that air pollution impacts birth weight, child growth, obesity, and bladder cancer. There is growing evidence of the adverse impacts of pollution on cognitive abilities in children.



My Vision FOR INDIA

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DREAM: A MEANS TO REALITY

History through different studies describes about ancient India as abundant in wealth and rich in cultures. The beauty of the country was so immense that many from other countries desired to stay on. The wealth of the country was so plentiful that many wanted to invade it. Sadly, when the invasion took place, not only the wealth of India was lost but also people's original identity and character. People of India were intoxicated with corruption and hunger for power. The people of India, who once revered guests as gods '*Athiti Devo Bhava*', began to consider their own people as "outsiders". As a result, the treasured and cherished values of great India began to float in the dirty waters. Exclusiveness and the discriminative factors were embraced with open hearts. Injustice in the form of caste system, atrocities by the land lords, female foeticide, poverty, etc. began to rise frequently. Nevertheless, the country moved on!

Looking at today's India, the problems and concerns don't seem to be over, rather it has swelled. Political leaders acting with destroying propaganda, the notion of '*Hindu Raashtra*', the situation after demonization, corona threats, loss of jobs, environmental crisis, National Education Policy and the 'silenced' media are a few broken realities that modern India painfully grapples with everyday. From the perspective of being an Indian as well as a Christian, in this essay, I visualise how I would like to see my nation in the next five years and the possibilities to achieve this goal.

1. Agriculture: A means to sustain life.

It is said that agriculture is the backbone of our Indian economy and farmers are the backbone of the society. Through agriculture not only the poor live on but also the entire country benefits. Food, one of the basic requirements of our country, is mainly contributed by farmers. Unfortunately, the farmers are being forced to give up organic farming to increase its yields to manage their debt crisis.

Therefore, my dream for India in the next five years is that the farmers have totally shifted to organic methods of farming and the current production of agriculture and food processing is doubled. There is ample amount of cold storage for the goods and proper and regulated markets and supply chains to maintain the consistency of the price of the goods. Thus, government acknowledges the efforts of the farmers and it encourages their hard work. Through this, I envision that through the help of our government the grievance like farmer's suicide has been totally eliminated.

2. Education: A means for Attitudinal Change.

Today the world is progressing in science, technology, arts, etc. Nelson Mandela once said "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." Firstly, education in India definitely would be one of the sustainable possibilities for bringing change in the mind-set of the people in the next five years. Educating young minds about the consequences of hatred from their initial stage of life and the effort to help them to see the goodness in others would gradually become a platform for all to live in harmony

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and peace. As the saying goes, “Charity begins at home”, I see that all the Christian schools teach their students about the danger



of hate-mongering for next five years. This effort of teaching values does not end in the moral classes only but a special interest is taken to accompany students outside the class room as well. Secondly, I would like to see that India is one of the best places for creating the talented scholars and scientists. And I envision that education system of our country is free from political involvement. Thus the level of the education in India is made advanced with high-tech. Because of the progress of science; students not only from India but also from all parts of the world come to India for studies. I visualize India as a center of knowledge that offers a cheap yet quality education accessible to all sectors of the society.

3. Politics: A Means to Establish God's Kingdom.
Since the day India received its independence, the political parties attack one another for the

failures. The number of scams and corruption seems to increase every time when the new party begins to govern. Lives of human beings are degraded merely to “vote banks”. There are more temples, churches, and mosques than education centers.

But the dream that I have for the political reformation in next five years is that the motto of each and every party is based on service. The parties are elected on their good deeds rather than their false manifesto. The governance of each party is responsible, transparent, and corruption free. The projects of the government are based on life sustaining. People of India are satisfied with the administration of the ruling party. The politicians are no longer looked as tainted rather they are seen as caretakers. The common man does not have to go to office for numerous occasions for the same tasks.

The youth no longer jump into a conclusion saying “Politics is dirty” rather they actively participate in it to sustain life.

4. Economy: A Means for Everyone's Growth. India at present is faced with many differences. People are discriminated based on their profession. Some works are glorified and others are degraded. Some people are respected because of the society in which they happened to be born and others are rejected not because of their own fault. Sadly, the differences between the “haves and have nots” are increasing day by day. The gap between the rich and poor are so much that it appears to be impossible to reach out to one another. Nevertheless, I have a vision for India in the economic front that the difference of the salary between the hard labor and the ‘white collar’ work is reduced and thus the rich and poor has the privilege to mingle freely, making the prophesy of Isaiah true “The wolf shall dwell with the lamb” (Isaiah 11:6). I dream about India that it becomes a country for investors

around the world to come and to draw benefits for everyone. And the production of multiple goods increases largely. And the job for the workers is sufficient. The youth becomes more responsible. More exports and fewer imports are encouraged and the rate of Indian currency ensures the better life for the poor. I visualize that economy of India is strengthened by the flow of money. The rich generously offer a few portions of their wealth for the development of the economy of India to grow together equally.

5. Caring for Ecology: A Means to Holiness. From the Christian point of view, it is our belief when God created the universe, he said. "Be fruitful and multiply" (Genesis 1:28). Along with freedom, there comes the responsibility. Sadly, instead of being fruitful, we make ourselves as the destroyers of the earth. The recent shocking news in Lebanon, where hundreds of innocent lives were lost due to the storage of unsecured



examples that show how we have become so irresponsible towards our mother earth and towards human life. In the name of development, we have created a world where the survival of the entire creation has become a question mark. And the present draft by the government of India, "The new Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA 2020)" is quite alarming. Nevertheless, we believe that change is a must in everything

as long as there are people struggle to sustain life. Therefore, my vision for our nation in the next five years is to safeguard it and to sustain it. I dream of a clean and green India where nature and development go hand in hand.

People are aware of the consequences about global warming and so they plant many trees. The cities are planned properly that there is enough pure air for everyone to breath and there is enough pure water to drink. The cleanliness is given importance and drainage system work perfectly, even during the monsoon season. The care and the facilities reach the rural areas too. The use of plastic is restricted and a proper waste management channel is followed. The use of renewable energy is increased. Promotion of Solar energy and every household is provided with electricity.

6. Technology: A Means to Care for the Needy. Everyone in the world understood the importance of science especially during the time of Corona. Corona, the monstrous disease has been infecting the humanity without any discrimination. At the same time in view of the treatment, those who have money are treated well in the hospitals with a great care. On the other hand, the poor ones are allowed to die either in the government hospital or at their homes without much care. There is a big disparity even in the field of science and technology too. My vision for the next five years is that India has made huge advancements in the fields of medical



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science. And with the government supports and policies for research and developments, the country has found a substantial cure for various dreadful diseases such as corona virus, diabetes, asthma, etc. And my country believes that the technology is not used for destruction but to save lives. My dream for India comes true in the next five years that the laborers working in the sewages and manholes are equipped with proper machines and materials.

7. Inclusiveness: A Means to Harmony. As I pointed out in my introductory note that the people of India once revered guests as gods have now begun to look at others as strangers. Fear of the other, prejudices about other religions paved way for people to look at others as enemies. Thus the sense of belongingness has been lost and the harmony is curtailed. In spite of all the confusion, I believe in oneness. Therefore, I visualise my mother earth in the next five years as a secular country in true sense, where the people are broad minded in terms of tolerance to other religions and their beliefs. The incidents of religious disputes and riots have become

a thing of the past. People of other nations appreciate India as a nation that is prosperous, healthy, secure, and free from terrorism and India remains a land of peace. I see our nation where the crime against women and children are no more and no one in the society feels neglected or alienated.

As I conclude my views and hopes for my mother earth, as a human being and as a Christian that, I believe that God has created everyone equal. It is the desire of every individual to lead a quality life on the earth. All of our efforts must be on fostering the life which is fulfilling. Jesus our Master too wants to give us a fullness of life (John10:10) which aims at bringing dignity and freedom to all without any discrimination. As our country is undergoing the moments of threats like fear, anxiety, prejudices, war, diseases, etc., may we strive hard to make our dream come true resonating with the golden proverb, "Where there is a will, there is a way"

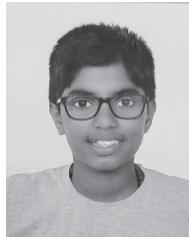
-Anjali Tirkey, Lucknow
(This essay won the 5th prize at the National Essay writing competition)

BEYOND THE SKY

Over the sky
I try to fly
Above the sky
To see what's high
There's a place up high
Above the sky
Up very high
Beyond the sky
So come along
Together we'll fly
Explore up high
Beyond the sky
There's a place of fantasy
Called the galaxy
Come along with me
Let's go to see

So up high there's a huge
galaxy
Which you can't see by
standing underneath
So if you want to see than
travel with me
Up very high
Beyond the sky .

-Ciffany Mascarenhas



LOVE IN MUSIC

Love in music
Music music everyday
It lightens my mind
With joy and gay .
With the rhythm
And beat I play,
It keeps my thoughts and
sadness away.
Music music everyday
This is my dream
Of life I say.
My heart awaits
For that day .
I know I'll be
A great musician one day.

~Cyphan Mascarenhas

IS OUR EVERY STEP SPOILING NATURE?



There was a debate in the country when fire crackers were banned in many cities of our country. Many tried to communalise without even understanding the need to protect our environment. This strictly points out our way of celebration of festivals specially *Diwali* and New Year. The tradition teaches us that *Diwali* is the festival of light but we run toward the trend and the trend teaches us that *Diwali* is the festival of combination of light and SOUND and we follow it. My intention of writing this article is to make you aware that every step we take should protect our environment and not spoil it.

And the result of it can be seen all around the sky, we all see the light and the sparks of crackers in the sky but do we know by this what happens to our ecosystem, which is dying slowly.

Now the question is, what can we do as young students? How can we help the nature to shine brighter and to maintain the beauty of nature? We only need to take some small steps which we can easily implement on our daily routine. We all take big resolutions which we only practise for a week or some times less than that. These resolutions are good to hear but very difficult to keep. Instead of taking big resolutions let ask take small steps to preserve our nature. Steps like, planting trees, taking care of them, reducing garbage, not littering, not burning waste, making compost out of waste from our kitchens, avoiding travel unnecessarily, switching off lights and not wasting water and other natural resources. These are very basic and small steps that all of us can take and practise easily.

The book of Genesis tells us how God created the world and the nature. He gave us access to his beautiful creation so that we can live happily but instead of using it as our need we started using it for our greed. As students let us use these resources sparingly.

Nature, not only provides us things to use but teaches us lessons which we should implement in our life. Nature teaches us the real art of giving without expecting anything from anyone and if we also start to follow the teaching of nature in our life we can be the most calm and satisfied person on the planet.

GENESIS 2:15 SAYS: And the Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to tend and guard and keep it. This Bible verse clearly mentions that we don't have any right to spoil the creation of our God which he has given us to take care and guard .

Let YCS/YSM light shine.

- *Oscar Martin, Nexco (Agra region)*



ONE nation VISION IDENTITY

MY VISION FOR INDIA IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

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‘Cherish your visions and your dreams as they are the children of your soul and the blueprints of your ultimate achievements’. Without leaps of imagination or dreaming, we tend to lose the excitement of possibilities. Dreaming after all is a form of planning. Let’s go invent tomorrow with our visions rather than worrying about what happened yesterday.

Every individual has got some plans for their future, each of us imagine it in different ways. We all expect it to be perfect. For which, we wish our nation to do more progress. We demand for more recognition and advances in the fields we study and pursue. But is it enough if we put thoughts just on ourselves? As responsible citizens of the country, isn’t it our duty to think for the progress of the entire nation? Haven’t our moral values taught us to think and do good for the other classes of the society? By classes here, I mean people belonging to different age groups and various sectors. So where do we see India in the next five years? We have got to put in a lot of thoughts to understand the importance and answer these questions as well as we should realise our contributions done to the same. We must come up with “A vision for a nation, influenced by the past experiences, for a better tomorrow”. Let us open the windows of our mind and plan the action to be prepared for.

The majority of India’s population comprises of young people. Being a student and responsible youth of the nation, in the next five years I see India as the most advanced and developed nation on the earth. I envision a clean and a green India. Protecting and preserving our nature’s wealth should be our first priority. We are linked to one another like

we co-exist. If we forget this primary fact, in the coming years, the result could be dreadful. We never know what the next day could lead us to. Presently, we are all facing the global pandemic which has made our lives miserable but it has taught us the value of our nature. The Earth is healing in for goodness. For instance, Pollution levels are under control, we are breathing clean air, animals are spotted in the streets, dolphins are seen without fear, and most importantly the Arctic’s ozone layer heals and the infamous ozone hole over Antarctica has closed. It is hence necessary that we remember this lesson in the years to come!

I believe ahead of this time, people will be living in peace and harmony and will tend to have religious tolerance. Indians need to know the true meaning of social, secular and democratic as India is a diverse country. We quote ‘UNITY

IN DIVERSITY’, but do we keep up the significance of this very elegant phrase? There are communal riots, interstate disputes, political gamble etc. So much negativity is spread around and this will have a terrible impact on the future generations to come. India also has poverty, sexual harassment, exploitation and many such unpleasant and awful things; which MUST IMMEDIATELY stop. If we really want India to shine brightly, or to make any progress in the coming years, the future generations should be fed with the fruits of positivity and optimism. For this to happen WE must learn to admire each other’s opinions, respect every individual no matter which religion, caste, creed, gender they belong to. The government and citizens of the country should work towards the upliftment

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of everybody's good. If this is done flawlessly, India will definitely reach great heights in the next five years.

The next thing I would like to emphasise on is the Agricultural sector. We are aware that the food security of the nation is in the hands of our country's farmers who are called 'the backbone of the nation'. Agriculture accounts for 18% of India's GDP and provides employment for 50% of the country's workforce. But now, this sector in India is falling down rapidly resulting in the fear of food security. There should be someone to carry out agriculture in the days to come; which definitely is the youth. As per the 12th Annual Status of Education Report (2017), "A significant proportion of youth aged 14-18 years (42%) are working regardless of whether they are enrolled in formal education or not. Of these, 79% work in agriculture (almost all on their own family's farm). Yet only 1.2%(out of 30,000) aspire to become farmers. 35% of Indian population fall under the age group 15-35 years and 75% of those residing in rural areas migrate to cities threatening the future of agriculture and food security. Youth now are more qualified and knowledgeable. They are aware of basic management principles and have some commercial orientation too. But the problem is, before accepting agriculture as a viable source of livelihood they compare themselves with people working in public or private sectors. There is a Negative perception and mind-set that agriculture is a low paying job as there is no fixed income. Also, there is no credit for farming and people consider it as an underrated job. Which brings us to 'Dignity of Labour'. This is another aspect I would like to highlight. No matter what job one is in, we should learn that, each and every individual works hard to fulfil his or her needs. The government should focus on giving support and marketing of agricultural products. In times of uncertainty, it should be made sure that the agricultural workers

are not affected too much. To add, there are many agricultural courses that only a few of us are aware. So, in the next five years, I aim that every individual is aware and is well educated about the same. 'Invest in youth to invest in farming to invest in the future'. We should understand its importance and implement it effectively.

There are so many aspects or activities that are originated in India that benefit us in our daily lives. There have been knowledge driven people born in our country. There are a number of inventions and discoveries made by ancient Indians. But, we don't pay any attention or importance to it. Because Indians have a mind-set to neglect their in-built intelligence and the ability to adapt to westernisation. For example, we do feel inferior to an American. I can point out two reasons for this action. One, we find that India is not developed as America is. Two,



we are biased towards what is actually not right. i.e. we have been told that India is somewhere not in recognition to the outside world. We should remember that Natural medicines, like *Ayurveda* originated in India. Practise of Yoga again came from India. It's worth noting that, other countries have great pleasure in practising our ancient works. But Indian's hardly feel any attachment to praise and practise the tremendous work of our own fellow beings. If we want India to grow, we should have love for our own motherland not just in terms of words but actions too. So, I desire Indians to recognise our nation's

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own potential, stay firm to it, respect it, stop comparing and uplift its ancient treasures. This doesn't mean that we shouldn't follow other culture, but it means we should equally give importance to our own. Let us remember our own ancient practises that have benefitted and is going to benefit for the betterment of the mankind!

'Wants are unlimited but resources are scarce'. Making best use of renewable resources is one of the solution to the emerging energy crisis. Advancement in the field of science and technology is essential. India has already made many advances in this field. But what I would like to stress on is that, these advancements should reach out to lots of people of the country. Every person should become aware of its significance and its importance. At the same time, each one should benefit from it. Encouragement to budding artists in various fields and promoting entrepreneurship is equally important. Education should include more of practicality. Reservation system should be abolished because it's highly unfair. If there is equality among religions this problem shouldn't exist. This system was implemented by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar because in those times the situation among different religious classes was worse. But this isn't the case now. Also, there was no compulsion made stating that it should be carried out forever. There'll be harmony among students if this system is abolished is what I feel.

Students should be encouraged towards research so they can contribute to the country's progress. A New Educational policy has been introduced. I strongly believe that this policy could make wonders in the coming years. If the NEP (National Education Policy – 2020) is implemented wisely and appropriately, India will definitely be recognised globally. Because the young minds have a potential to think and dream big. To state in terms of

Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam's words "My message, especially to young people is to have courage to think differently, courage to invent, to travel the unexplored path, courage to discover the impossible and to conquer the problems and to succeed". He did have vision for India-2020. Has it reached his expectations? I don't think so. But, can we make it possible by 2025? A definite yes. Provided, we come up with something unique, creative and innovative that might make us recognised across the globe.

Based on the interests and wants of different people, the list of visions can go on and on. Because I feel it's a human tendency to acquire better things that helps them to prosper. One grows when he or she dreams big and strives to make it a part of reality. If every individual realises his responsibility towards the growth of the nation and works hand in hand with a common motive, India will truly represent the true significance of its tri-coloured flag in everyone's minds and hearts. In these times of uncertainty and misery, one should not lose hopes. It is definitely easier to say than to experience but this shouldn't block the pathway to our visualisations, contributions and to our dreams. After all, it is us, the youth, the young generation, who is going to carry the country forward to great progress, achievements and success. With the blessings of the almighty, we definitely have the potential to reach great heights, work towards the nation's progress and serve for a humanitarian cause!

"ONE NATION, ONE VISION, ONE IDENTITY.
NO NATION IS PERFECT; IT NEEDS TO BE MADE PERFECT".
Jai Hind!

-Lizan Meryl Pereira
(This essay won the 4th prize at the National Essay writing competition)

ejk l cl s cMk Mj

1. शाम एक आई ऐसी सोचा क्या है डर ?
अंधेरा, फांसी, या गहरा पानी फिर दिखा चेहरा माँ का, और दिल ने कहा अब क्या डर ।
2. फिर अचानक सहम सा गया मेरा मन, दिल रोया, घबरा गया मन
यह सोच के अगर माँ ही नहीं रही तब !
अंधेरा, गहरा पानी से भी ज्यादा डर रही थी अब ।
3. ऐसा सोचा था ना कभी, डरी ऐसी थी ना कभी। माँ के बिना रहूंगी कैसे ?
दुनिया का सामना अकेले करूंगी कैसे ?
4. क्या तब मैं हो जाऊँगी कमजोर ?
क्या तब मुझ पर चलेगी सबकी जोर ?
यह सोच के दिल दर्द से भर गया और डर मन में घर कर गया ।
5. डरा हुआ मेरा मन पूछ बैठा माँ से
"क्या आप रह नहीं सखती साथ हमेशा ?
नहीं रहना आपके बिन,
नहीं करना अकेले सामना इस दुनिया का "
6. माँ ने मुस्कुरा कर कहा
"जाना तो सबको है एक दिन पर ना करो फिक्र तुम
तैयार तुम्हें करूँगी हर मुश्किल के लिए डरोगी ना किसी से तुम" ।
7. मैंने गले से जब लगाया माँ को तब सुकून मिला मेरे दर्द भरे दिल को,
क्या ऐसा सुकून कभी मिल पाएगा ?
क्या ऐसा प्यार कोई कर पाएगा ?
8. बैठ गया डर माँ के ना होने का,
बैठ गया डर सवालों के जवाब ना होने का
काश माँ रहती साथ हमेशा तो यह डर ना रहता साथ हमेशा,
काश माँ रहती साथ हमेशा ।

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1. इंसानों की बदलती दुनिया में आज की तकनीकी दौर में क्या बच्चे क्या बूढ़े दिखते हैं मोबाइल हाथों में सबके
2. करनी हो कभी दिल की बात करते हैं व्हाट्सऐप, फेसबुक, इन्स्टाग्राम में छणिक भर तो लगता ऐसा है मानो पास बैठे वो हमारे और करली बातें सारी है
3. सुबह होते ही पिताजी, निकलते दफ्तर को थके माँदे आते हैं रोज शाम को ना बच्चों से ना माँ से वक्त मिलता बात करने को
4. मषगुल हैं सारे कामों में अपने नहीं रही अब वो रिश्ते अपनों में दिखते चेहरों में हंसी है सबके मगर होते नहीं खुषी उन हंसी में
5. किया सवाल बच्ची ने पिता से जाते कहाँ रोज हैं दिखते सुबह थोड़ी देर हैं फिर हो जाते गुम कहीं हैं काश होता गर्मी छुट्टी हमेशा खेलती घुमती हर दम आपके साथ
6. मस्करा कर पिता ने कहा बेटा दुनिया का दस्तूर ही है; ऐसा करूँगा जो मैं काम आज रहोगी कल तुम आबाद
7. सोच के जीवन कल का मेरा गुजर जाएगा बचपन अकेला मेरा सुन कर बातें नन्हीं बच्ची का व्याकुल हुआ दिय माँ पिता का
8. साथ में हो अपने तो खुशी है लगती ये जमीं जन्नत है गम का पहाड़ हो या भवंडर लगता हर मंजर आसान है



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Gracy Tudu and John Marandi won the second and third prize respectively in the Hindi Poetry section.



NATIONAL OFFICE

NEXCO'S MEETING WITH THE REGIONAL TEAM REPORT

Due the pandemic the activities of the movement throughout the country were dismissed. Because of which the national team decided to have online meetings with the regions every Sunday and discuss few important things like reviving the movement, online meetings/programs and most importantly building a communication link between the national and the regional teams and also to discuss about other matters related to the movement. The following are the region with whom the meetings were conducted in the recent months..

Region	Date	Chaplain	Regional team member	Nexcos
North East	22 Aug	Sr. Berna/ Fr. John	10	7
Karnataka	30 Aug	Fr. Lourde Raj/ Fr. Edwin, Fr. Pius	19	6
Telugu	29 Aug	Fr. Praveen / Fr. Richard	7	8
M.P.	5 Sept	Fr. Alex	6	4
Agra	12 Sept	Fr. Dominic	9	5
TN	27 Sept	Fr. Martin	5	6

The meetings began with a short prayer and presenting the regional report of past one year. National team also presented the brief report of the activities conducted in the past one year. The meeting continued by taking suggestions from the regional team on how to revive our movement and what programs and actives can

be conducted either online or offline. Many suggestion such as online quiz, talent hunt program, corona awareness webinar and having online cell meetings, updating our resource material and website, being active on our social media flatform and helping the student members were a few of the major suggestions received from the various regions. Later on Fr. Chetan addressed and spoke about the present situation and other major issues that the movement is facing, He also suggested a few events. With all these discussions and suggestions the meetings ended with the blessing from our national chaplain Fr. Chetan.

- *Deril D'Sa*

National Convenor



YCS/YSM NATIONAL COMPETITIONS

The National team of YCS/YSM organised Essay and poetry competitions for the students. These competitions were held in Hindi and English categories. Topics were published and students were asked to submit their entries online. More than fifty students participated in these competitions and winners were awarded with a certificate and cash prize.

The National team has decided to publish all the prize winning essays and poems in *the Search* newsletter in the coming editions. Some of the entries are published in this edition of *The Search*. We thank all the participants and congratulate the winners. We are also grateful to all the evaluators (judges) for helping us to evaluate these competitions.

-*Ms. Thangni, Secretary*

THE FINAL JOURNEY



Homily for the funeral mass of Fr. Antoine

My dear Antoine,

You don't make it easy for me. At this precise moment, I confess to you, I envy the ability that was yours until the end, to be able to hold yourself at a distance, to contain your emotions and to silence your suffering. Not that you were a callous man or an intellectual "perched", as young people say today, no, it is even the other way around. You have been infinitely sensitive to all human tragedies, to all the absurdities and the distress of the contemporary world, to the deep crises of our Church, as to the most ordinary requests from your relatives and friends. It was because your gaze went far, far beyond our shopkeeper's complaining and our petty moods.

You didn't show off your service either. And yet listing off the church missions and the humanitarian commitments which made you travel all the continents, would be enough to show the broad spectrum of your vision of the world and of the Church. What an evangelizer, and what a man who crossed borders, what a ferryman of fraternity you have been !

A network man, a person of initiatives, a pedagogue of solidarity, an orchestrator of debates, you have acted with discretion and humility, without wanting to play the first violin. Rather, you have been the caring Sherpa who carries the backpack of the one who can no longer, the companion who supports those who despair about reaching the top.

It is up to us to thank you, Antoine, you the "universal brother", for having opened our eyes to the diversity of peoples and cultures, to the dignity of the poor and to the nobility of distant lands, for having reminded us of the subversive force of the Gospel, for having taught us that solidarity was a surer path of spirituality than our confined piety. And thank you also for making us laugh so much, on the edge of the abyss which your analyses opened before us.

Yes, Antoine, you saw the big picture, probably a little too big for the guardians of institutions. You saw far away, far beyond prejudices, stereotypes and supposed common sense. I never told you, but I think you had a look like Louis Jovet: one wide, extra-lucid, almost disturbing eye and the other, mischievous, gently ironic. Your critical mind, the effects of which you relished on your interlocutors, was always accompanied by the self-deprecating smile of your second eye. Because the critical spirit that was your trademark, you pushed it to the point of criticism of criticism, so as not to settle into the posture of the fundamentalists of modernity. Above all, you were suspicious of imaginary Christians, Christians who are only there by proxy, who would be ready to cry out "I am Oscar Romero" or "I am Mother Teresa", as others say "I am Charlie". Let me quote you: "This communion of saints gives prestige and beauty to the cowardly and banal existence of the imaginary Christian."

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You, yourself did not live your faith by proxy. From your youth you let yourself to be guided by the recommendation of Ecclesiastes: “Walk according to the ways of your heart and according to the vision of your eyes” (Eccles 11:19). It is by walking, literally and figuratively, that you have traced your path off the beaten track, to “geographic, ecclesial and existential peripheries” as Pope Francis would say, whose recommendation, in any case, you did not need to “get out”, of our parish enclosures. You have been everywhere where the Church is invented, always going towards the other. To put it in the language of the tribe: an entirely synodal church, an entirely diaconal church, entirely at the service of justice and peace.

You reminded us that your hope as a believer was without image, without speech, without any representation. You don't have to apologize. In the parable of the Last Judgment, which we have just read with you in mind, it is Jesus himself who works to deprive us of the support of all our imaginary representations of transcendence and the hereafter. His words invariably refer us to the Other, to the other in his destitution, in his distress as an exile or prisoner, the other in his sick and hungry body. The righteous of the parable who helped the unfortunate, treating them like kings, do not even have to approach the King, they are already near him: “Come, you blessed of my Father!” (Mt 25:34)

All the good that you did, Antoine, you didn't do it to receive the medal of the righteous and be in the photo. You did it for nothing, like the righteous in the parable. You did it out of justice, out of love, to respond to the needs of the present and the requests written on the faces of others.

The one who is called God, as you have always said with extreme modesty, and whom you have always scrupulously kept away from religious knick-knacks, those who imagine themselves disposing of them as they please, the God whom no one has never seen and that no thought can conceive, today gives you a divine surprise: the veil has fallen, you recognize Him. It is indeed He whom, in the ignorance of your reason, you have helped, defended and welcomed, He in his glorious beauty as a crucified man.

Before closing your eyes to “this painful, tragic, magnificent world”, it took courage to fight against this rotten cancer, but it took you even more to let yourself be overcome by the mercy of God, welcoming your own death as a sublime Eucharist, letting go of your life and offering it to us as a message of grace: “Simply trust in life, and you will see it's of great beauty.”

Farewell, Antoine, you will see eternity is of infinitely greater beauty. In fact, Jesus once said to Nathanael, a guy whom you looked like, a man without deceit according to the Gospel: “You will see much greater things.”

- Father Robert



In reverence & remembrance
Fr. Antoine Sodang (1988-1991)
Former International YCS Chaplain &
Advisory Board member

YCS/YSM India

We thank God for the gift of an amazing priest and let's continue to be inspired.

3

**YCS/YSM
Movement –
Fond Memories
and Life Lessons**

Irudayam, New York
Former National Chaplain

Continued from the last issue...

[This narrative is a re-write of an article submitted in Tamil to a publication by past Tamilnadu YCS/YSM student leaders and animators in 2009.]

I must mention two more student leaders who played a great part in my life and commitment, and to the growth of the movement. John S. B. and Alex, both of them hailed from Hyderabad. From early on both were involved in YCS and moved up to leadership levels in the parish, diocese, regional, and national committees. John worked with Asia YCS, and then became General Secretary of International YCS in Paris, and made us proud. I was fortunate to work and learn from both of them.

From his world experience, John taught us a lesson in the training of leaders in the movement. During his tenure at YCS, Johnny established a solid national YCS leadership training for all student leaders and animators. Father John Desrocher from Bangalore, a theologian and social expert, organized and conducted

YCS/YSM India is grateful to Irudayam, our former chaplain for sharing memories with us. We will publish these memories of former Chaplains in the coming issues

... such training courses with contemporary curricula and practical methodology. For years YCS animators and other youth service workers all over India gained skills and strategies of youth ministry in these national sessions. On one of his visits from Paris, John questioned me and the student team regarding such an approach to the training of youth leaders.

... How was it that YCS/YSM animators have grown with years of experience with young people, returning again and again, every year, to get trained from a set of pre-set curricula? Was it not time that the leaders themselves start from their experiences, set their own training agenda and develop self training from their shared experience and reflection? Was this not an approach more suitable for a mature YCS movement? I was new to international thinking on youth training; I was not even aware of Paulo Freire's education ideology and philosophy.



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With all confusion, but with the support of John, we called a regional training session for Tamilnadu animators and student leaders. We opened the session with no agenda, in blank and chaos; John spoke to us and helped us to look into our past experiences with the youth; his enthusiasm and openness were contagious. Within a day, we discovered that we had an agenda for a week of reflection and prayer, issues for deeper discussion, needs to be prioritized and strategies to be mapped out. We could not believe that we could train ourselves. Of course, there were some 'experts' with us when we needed them. After years of costly formal training sessions, we changed the classic training approach to cost-beneficial and mutual training in YCS. I thank John for his insight, encouragement and support for the growth in the movement. He made me believe the impossible and have the courage to live what I believe.

Alex, the full time student leader in the National executive committee who followed in the steps of John, was different, younger than John, but not unequal to John. His area of service was within India unlike John, but equal in leadership and inspiration. I always remember what Alex taught me towards the close of my tenure in YCS.

I was completing my three years of service in the movement. After long hours and days of prayer, reflection and discussion, the national student executive committee and I, as their animator, selected Father Michael of Tamilnadu to succeed me to the position of national chaplain. But there arose a problem. Father Matthew of Nagpur, the regional chaplain of the North region, who was also a lawyer and active YCS leader for years, thought that he would be a better candidate for the position of national chaplain. I believe he wanted to expand the movement more methodically and strategically than I or anyone else. But

the student leadership and I thought that the already established movement needed more ideological orientation and spiritual depth than more extension. I was accused of manipulating the national executive team in the selection of the candidate. I was sad and the student team was upset. The problem was referred to CBCI (Catholic Bishops Conference of India) who normally approved the position of the national chaplain of the movement. CBCI asked for an enquiry. The enquiry took place at the same time as the national council in Ooty, Tamilnadu. I refused to defend myself during the enquiry sessions in order to allow the student committee to speak for itself. After days and nights of agony, the truth was out and the student leaders disproved the accusation. At the verdict, Alex turned to me and said: you are a Christian. I can never forget that compliment; and I am still proud of it. I thank Alex for identifying me as a Christian and continuing to challenge me with that name every day of my life. Being a Christian is a task for life.

There were dozens of other student leaders and full time volunteers and animators with whom I travelled, participated in sessions, engaged in discussions and shared the joy of being together. One thing they all taught me was that I am a human being. Being ordained to priesthood, many of us seem to forget that we are still human. Though we



live and relate with other human beings, we seem to assume that our priesthood makes us greater and different from other insignificant human beings below us: 'We are separated for the gospel of Christ'. The student leaders removed such an illusion from me. When I was in their midst, they just saw me, through my cassock or chasuble, or whatever mask I wore. I learned to accept myself as human and was proud to be transparent, simple and ordinary. Discovering my own humanity helped me to encounter the basic humanity of others and serve them in a more meaningful way. I thank all the full timers who gave me back the gift of humanity. When God became human in Christ, we could not have received a better gift.

As I am from Tamilnadu, I had a special relationship with Tamilnadu YCS/YSM students, leaders and animators. My inability to speak Hindi curtailed my depth of relationship with students outside Tamilnadu. However, everywhere I experienced the joy of YCS living, loving

and serving. I cannot forget the week long day and night trip-visits I made to cells in Karnataka with George, the vibrant and untiring full time student full-timer. I remember vividly the YCS Ranchi students and animators celebrating community sharing and joy dancing the whole night in circles of light. My unimaginable bus rides in Bihar to visiting cells with Aanand, the full timer of Hindi region, and reaching Patna to have a glimpse of Himalayas, were unforgettable. I fondly remember Father Hugh Fonseca taking me around Bombay to visit cells, their parades and their exhibits. Can I ever forget the animators and student leaders of Goa, especially Mr. Matthew, the ever-enthusiastic animator with whom I shared most beautiful moments? I remember how I was thrilled at the faith sharing of student leaders in Berampur training in Odissa. I do not easily forget the Calcutta YCS groups who were sharing their friendship and commitment with the poorest of India.

...to be continued

I Hope Things Get Better

Every day I wake up with hope,
Waiting for a life with less chaos
My Soul in weary and I long for rest,
With a heavy heart and mind depressed.

Drowning in my own false imagination,
Calming my racing heart,
Taking deeper breaths
And silencing my irrational thoughts.

Caught in a trap,
Of unknown fear
My life doesn't feel mine,
But soaked in Sadness.

I know it's okay to feel
unstable and dissociate,
Okay to vanish from
worldly things and disappear
It's okay to need help,
And not be okay.

I hope things get better,
But how do I tell,
I am desperate for peace
And long-time happiness.

- *Rishal Nola*



My pursuit of happiness!

A reason to smile,
A push to walk an extra mile.
A wish full filled and brightness in the eyes,
Fallen a million times, yet ready to rise.
Guilty of the worst, natheless getting a heartfelt forgiveness ,
Aren't these a few of the countless reasons of yours and my happiness?

Toddler's feet standing strong for the first time,
To growing up to own his part of sunshine.
The journey allying gives reasons to smile,
To the very ones whose hopes and dreams with us are entwined.
A delightful relief to our parents' struggle through dusk and dawn
Is the assurance that ours are the shoulders they can depend upon.

Life, a voyage of milestones!
Seizing each one takes you closer to your much awaited throne.
From walking on a path of spines,
To cycling on rainbows and sailing on cloud nine.
You've engraved yourself a trail of pride with modesty,
On looking back, your soul is filled with gratitude and felicity.

Be it a candy for a child
Or a father returning from border to see his family fit and fine.
A mother wanting her kid to like the new dish she tried,
A grandmother cuddling her tiny-tot when he cried.
The teary eyed Duchenne smile of these little happiness,
Aren't they worth the diamond stars in the sky, in essence-priceless?

Phoenix, the fire bird burns itself to death
And rises again from the ashes reclaiming every breath.
The endurance of this pain is beautiful,
The journey to the destination is unnerving yet zestful.
This ecstasy of rising is a unique one,
It aims to drive you towards the beaming rays of sun.

Realising the wrong-doings is a bigger virtue than a vice,
Learning and rising above one's mistakes is believed to be wise.
Forgive and forget is the mantra of a peaceful living
And forgiveness is a gleeful chance for self-reflecting.

Happiness is what we think we are working towards
Meanwhile forgetting to grab the moments being showered.
Future isn't a guarantee,
You never know where life takes you promptly.
And that's why, stop! seize your share of happiness
While you live through each day's melody



*- C.R. Nithya Shree,
Hyderabad Archdiocese*



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