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Search

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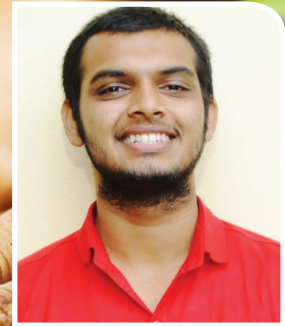
**FOREST FIRE:
WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?**

Inside this issue

Essays & Poems, articles on
bushfire, COVID pandemic

PLANT A TREE. ON YOUR BIRTHDAY

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Climate change is a major issue that the world is facing at present. As a result of which, we witness extremely cold winters and burning hot summers. This wasn't the case if we look a few years back. But now this issue needs to be addressed seriously before its too late. Its now or never. We humans play a huge and prominent role in climate change. Human activities like excess use of fossil fuels, deforestation, emitting green house gases has resulted in declination of climate.

One such major issue is the wild fire break downs in different forest areas. About a year ago, we heard about Amazon forest fire, Australia's bush fire, recent forest fires in Odisha and Uttarakhand where most of the geographical area is covered with forests and greenery. But these wild fires have made the situation even worse. The Uttarakhand has recorded 361 incidents of forest fire that have damaged 567 hectares, including 380 hectares of reserve forest areas. Since Uttarakhand is near to Himalayas there is a high possibility of ice melting and leading to increased sea water levels which will result in floods and other natural calamities. So we can't even imagine the results of these in the near future.

There might be numerous reasons for the outburst of these wild fires such as lightning, thunder, and many a times it occurs due to carelessness of the people living around who set fire to the wild grass which enters the forest and is difficult to control once it breaks out. Smoking cigarettes and improperly disposing its buds may also cause fire. There might be natural but most of the time directly or indirectly we humans are the cause for this and we need to take action now before it is too late.

As YCS/YSM'ers we are obliged to save and protect our nature and spread awareness about it. What can we do as students? one suggestion would be planting a sapling on our birthday's. This will allow us to live a long life and help you breathe clean air. We can also pledge not to pollute the nature by any means. By these tiny steps we can bring changes within us and by this many others will get inspired and change themselves for a better tomorrow.

Let YCS/YSM light shine
-Deril D'Sa, National Convenor



It's time to change OURSELVES

Greetings to all the YCS/YSMers!!

Here's a question to our readers. What do you mean by biosphere? Try to find an answer yourselves first. For me, or from what I have learnt, biosphere is a combination of all global ecosystem consisting of both living and non- living things. Yes, we were taught about this since we were in grade III. But here's the actual question, do we care about all the ecosystem?

Well, the answer for the above question is 'nope'. We don't care about any other living or non - living things. We, humans just live to fulfill our needs at any cost. And unfortunately. we are never satisfied with what we have. Humans always want more and more comfort, better technology and easy life. It is always going to be us, humans who will be the reason of everything, be it good or bad. The nature never asks anything from us, so do you think that we don't need to look after her? Here is an example, we all see our mothers; how they give and give and never ask for anything in return, but isn't it our duty to protect her, love her, take care of her needs too. Similarly, nature is also like a mother to us.

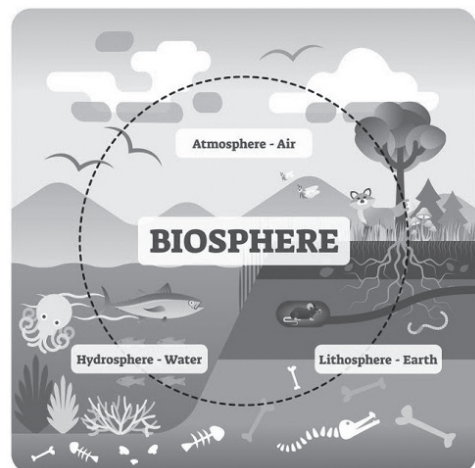
Where does this need for more and more comfort and technology lead us to? It leads us to major floods and land erosions in the Southern parts, catching fire in the East, melting of glaciers in the North and droughts in the West. If we are aware of these natural calamities, how are we prepared to stop them? Can we change?

Our biosphere needs us to take care of it. You know if we change our daily habits or improve them, we can make a change. As YCS/YSM'ers our motto is to change self and then change others. We always talk about doing something tomorrow, why can't we start doing today itself.

In this issue, we talk about the buring biosphere or in other words buring of the world and how it has changed our lives and how we should change ourselves for the earth. It's time to change ourselves.

Albert Einstein once said, "The measure of intelligence, is the ability to change".

- *Ashita Jimmy*, Editor - *The Search*





One might wonder about why the students have chosen this topic? As we prepare this edition of *the Search*, wild fire in Uttarakhand is still raging. Several hectares of forest is lost and along with that rich wild life too. This is happening all around the world. The recent wildfires in Amazon, California and Australia have highlighted several problems. Apart from losing precious biosphere, these fires cause pollution and contribute towards global warming. Glaciers are melting; sea levels are rising and soon several islands and coastal villages will be submerged into the sea. This precisely is the reason why the young students are worried about these forest fires.

Let me narrate a story... In a faraway village, people lived a very happy life. Men would go to forest in the morning, cut wood, sell it in the town and feed their families. Everything came from the forest, their homes, food, fruits, medicinal herbs, firewood and almost everything. Their forest was full of tall and old trees. People used only what they needed and none of them were greedy. Though they were poor, they lacked nothing. Times changed and some of them went to cities and towns. They saw people living a different life, they got influenced and came back to their village and convinced people to sell their land and forest to the companies and become rich overnight. A decision was taken to sell the forest and land and soon there were factories and buildings there. All the villagers were sent to a colony near the city and were given a small house and some money... Today, many are struggling to get jobs, many have become sick, few are adjusting to the city life and the elderly are gasping for fresh air and clean water. A healthy and happy village has now become a sick and polluted colony.



This is a true story of many villages in our country. We are losing our land, forests and natural resources in the name of urbanization and because of some peoples greed. Our generation might survive all this but how are we preparing for the next generation? Are we selfish and greedy and don't care for the next generation?

Our students are taking up this challenge to spread awareness and YCS/YSM movement is doing a lot in terms of working towards creating a healthy nature.

About Forest fire

The wildfires of Uttarakhand and Australia have been burning for months, and there is no end in sight. More than 17 million acres of land in Australia alone have been burnt, and the flames took with it the lives of at least 28 people. More than 3,000 homes have been destroyed, and the fires are still raging.



In the United States, there are more than 75,000 wildfires that occur each year, which burn more than 7 million acres of our precious land. No state is exempt from the risk of these fires as there are forests and wooded areas everywhere. The shocking fact is that careless humans start nine out of every ten forest fires.

How to prevent wild fire and what can we do?

Wildfire prevention methods are essential to ensure wildlands, and those who live in and around them are safe. Here are ways that you can be proactive:

1. Report unattended fires

If you are ever out and about and notice a fire that is burning out of control or is unattended, immediately call 101 or your local fire department. When the conditions are right, even a small campfire can turn into a massive fire. "See something? Say something," is one of the key wildfire prevention methods

2. Extinguish fire pits and campfires when done

Many people wonder how to prevent wildfires, but the easiest way is to be careful when having a campfire or using a fire pit. A fire should never be left unattended for any period. Also, when you are done with the fire, and then make sure you completely extinguish it. Use water or ashes to put out the flames. Keep tents and sleeping gear away from any fire pit or campfire to ensure you don't add fuel to the fire. Loose kindling and branches around the campsite can feed the flames. To prevent wildfires, you should tidy up the area to make sure there is nothing that could catch fire from an errant spark.

3. Don't throw lit cigarettes out of your moving car

Never throw lit cigarettes, smoking materials, or matches out of your car, or on the ground. Cigarettes and matches both have enough heat to create a spark. Make sure any cigarettes are completely extinguished before you throw them in the trash. Many wildfires can start by carelessly flicking a cigarette butt on the ground, especially during dangerously dry conditions.

4. Use caution when using flammable liquids

When using propane to refill stoves, lanterns, or heaters, make sure you use extreme caution. Wait to fill these devices once they have completely cooled. Any flammable liquids can quickly ignite a lantern. Additionally, these should be filled outside rather than inside.

5. Pay attention to local ordinances for trash burning

If you burn your trash, then you need to make sure that you follow your local ordinances. Most areas will have restrictions when it's windy, or there are dangerous conditions that can spark a wildfire. Make sure to have a fire extinguisher with you when you burn anything so that you can put out the flames if necessary. If you have any flammable materials in your yard, remove them before you burn any trash or rubbish.

6. Only use fireworks in clear areas with no woods nearby

Wildfire prevention techniques can be difficult when most people don't realize the harm involved. For instance, during the 4th of July holiday season, people love sparklers and other fireworks. However, these things should never be used unless there is a wide-open space with no flammable materials nearby. Also, check with your local ordinances as many restrict fireworks altogether.

7. Pay attention to the risk of forest fires in your area

Always check the local forecast to learn about fire safety alerts. The U.S. Forest Service mascot is Smokey The Bear, and there is a risk posted wherever his statue is located near wooded areas. Regions in California and other places around the country post the risk for forest fires daily. The public must be made aware so that they can prevent doing any activities that could end up causing a wildfire..

These are some ways to prevent forest fires. As students we can do more. In this issue of the Search our students have written articles and have given a lot of suggestions. Lets work together to save our environment for us and for our future generations.

- Fr. Chetan Machado
National Chaplain

Alok is from a middle class family. His parents work hard to send him to school. Alok is an average student and well mannered in public. Teachers have no complaints and he has a lot of friends. His friends and class mates are from rich families. They bring latest gadgets and live a lavish life. Alok wants to imitate them but he doesnt imitate because he has a very good name in the school as a well mannered boy. He finds it difficult to maintain this good name. He wants to join the other boy in mischief. Because of this tension he is suffering now. He doesnt mingle with many. One day a few fans were broken in the classroom. All the mischievous boys were punished but later it was known that Alok had done this! How can you help Alok to address this issue?



DEPRESSION & ENCOUNTER WITH GOD:

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Fr Varghese Alengaden
Founder USM

As I was reading and receiving the news of increasing number of Covid infections and death of thousands of people all over the country I was praying daily to God to bring healing and peace to all. I was also shocked to know the death of many priests, nuns and friends who belonged to all faiths. I never imagined that I myself would be tested positive and would land up in a hospital.

After a year of suspension of all our retreats and training sessions when we received requests from some groups of priests and religious for exposure and retreat in USM community we welcomed them. Unexpectedly in the midst of these sessions I was tested positive and was hospitalized. Neetu Joshi, one of our team members also needed hospitalization.

There was an acute shortage of beds in all hospitals in the city. Hospitals were over crowded with Covid patients. I was lucky to get a bed in a general ward of Covid patients. Aware of the death of many of my



friends in different hospitals and their burial in the absence of friends and relatives I became a bit nervous about the fate of the unique USM mission I had launched 28 years ago and the future of many collaborators who dedicated their lives for this mission since its inception.

Despite my strong conviction I was disturbed by the austere policies I had opted such as, not to own land and building and run the Movement in rented premises; not to create a corpus for maintaining the expenses and raise funds from our work through training programs. I had followed these policies to prevent the evils of institutionalization. Moreover I was experimenting to follow the way of Christ who carried out His mission without any institution and funds. I was not only proud of our success and suggested many to follow this experiment.

My anxiety and tension did not last long. Sitting in the hospital bed I continued my practice of contemplating on our vision, mission and polices

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of three decades. I started counting the blessings and positive testimonies of many people about our mission and way of life. I also recalled the motivational sessions I had given to thousands of groups of youth, teachers, parents, priests and nuns across the country and abroad. I recalled positive testimonies of young students, teachers and their principals who came to USM for various training sessions. I also remembered the positive comments of hundreds of priests, nuns and bishops who came from all over the country for exposure and retreats in USM community. I recalled the trust and admiration expressed by hundreds of persons from all walks of life and faiths about our mission and way of life.

I also recollected the number of songs, articles and books I had written to motivate different groups of people. I challenged myself, "how can you get depressed? Don't you have to be true to what you have spoken and written over the years?"

I said to myself that this is the time I need to realize God within and maximize the divine from within. I have spoken to numerous groups this message with great conviction.

I recalled the motivational lyrics of many songs I wrote in Hindi, "What is impossible for human beings if God is with them?....". "We shall salute crisis because we see God in crisis".

As usual I repeated the words of St. Paul, "If God is with us who can be against us?" The words of Christ himself brought confidence to me, "Fear not. Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?"

The title and content of my latest book, "*Ho Jayega*" (It will be done) further challenged me.

This process of contemplation and challenging myself gave me confidence. I could hear the voice of God, "Haven't I taken care of you for the last 28 years? Remember, you are

only a steward of my mission. I will take care of my mission."

I was consoled with these thoughts, 'If God wants me He would heal me and give health to carry on with His mission. If He decides that my work is enough I shall surrender to His will and leave everything in this world and join the Cosmic spirit, God. I should be happy that I worked hard with purity of intention and clarity of vision to accomplish the mission which God had entrusted me. The rest He would carry out in His own way'.

As I came out of the hospital after a week and was spending the days in quarantine I realized that God wants me to continue His mission with greater commitment. I was again disturbed by the funds required to run the Movement till the situation becomes normal and we are able to welcome groups for training sessions. Again God's voice was clear, "you shall follow the



policy of getting your daily bread. Don't worry about the next few months and large funds needed to sustain the mission. I shall provide the 'daily bread'. This is my own mission and I shall take care of it through friends and well wishers who understand the positive impact of the mission. You just continue your work as a loyal steward".

I experienced great relief and threw away my burdens and mental stress. I said to myself: Ho Jayega! God will make it possible.

Neetu and myself are gradually getting back to our normal life. I continue reading, reflection and writing. I also make phone calls to those who suffer physical and mental stress. I spent time to write many letters to express solidarity and support to friends and all who are in need.

Since God has given a second life I feel an inner urge to work with more concern and compassion. I am ever grateful to hundreds of people who were praying for our recovery.

As thousands are dying in the country daily due to lack of good health facilities, chaos due to bad governance, increasing stories of inhumanity and corruption I feel the urgency of our mission of mentoring the youth force and train them to take the leadership of the nation ensuring justice, equality, freedom, pluralism, fraternity and dignity of every individual. This should be our priority. We have made a successful experiment since 1993. We need more dedicated volunteers and resources to expand and sustain this unique mission.▶▶



On 7 April 2021, IYCS Asia Organised an online meeting with South Asian Member Countries that is YCS/YSM India, YCS Sri Lanka, YCS Bangladesh and YCS Nepal. There were 13 participants in the meeting. The meeting was moderated by Ms. Jessica, Asian coordinator and Fr Anil Dsa, Asian Chaplain. The meeting began with a short prayer followed by introduction of the national movements' leaders.

REPORT

Of IYCS South Asian Meeting



The following points were discussed in the meeting .

- . Future plans (Asian Council) ; whether to have Asian Council online or offline.
- . If ASC is conducted online, how effective it is going to be.
- . How to revive the movement at the Asian level .
- . How to help Asian team if they extend their tenure for another year.

Each Nation gave their views and thoughts on each points stated above. And all the national movement agreed to have more such online meetings once in a while to build good communication chain. The meeting concluded with the short prayer by Fr Lester Wijesooriya.

- Ashita Jimmy, Deril D'Sa
National Team

ARTICLE

Burning Biosphere

the burning ISSUE



I have put myself to a habit of reading news as soon as I wake up in the morning. This is a forced upon habit as I had to improve my knowledge on General Knowledge and current affairs; to be competitive enough to give my competitive exams. A few days ago there was a news about India having its hottest March, 3rd time in a row. The weather was super-hot and this news made me think how I was going to spend my remaining summer.

Billions of years ago, earth was said to be a ball of fire. It took another billion years, for our planet to cool down and to be sustainable to support life. We are regarded as super intelligent creatures and have tried all that we could to make Earth a better place to live in. But, what we forgot is to take care of it. Growing pollution, increased use of CO2 products, increased Plastic and electronic waste, cutting of trees to utilise the land for better and modern facilities; have given space to global warming. Yes; we humans are the reason for major environmental and climatic issues. One among the growing issues is bushfires being reported in various parts of the world. We have heard about the major bushfire accidents in Australia, Amazon forest, Bandipur Forest, Greek forest and the most recent one which occurred in India was Chhattisgarh and Odisha Forest fires.



Bushfires destroy wildlife, plants and vegetation, kills humans, damages property and causes a long term effect on the environment. Forests like Amazon, which contributes to a huge amount of earth oxygen; lost acres of forest land in bushfires. I had watched an episode of bushfire rescue in Australia on Discovery

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Channel and this episode got me goosebumps and tears. Australian bushfires were compared to a warfare and of utter devastation.

There are various reasons which causes bushfires. One among them is increase of temperature on earth. If we compare the statistics of earth temperature for the past 30 to 50 years, we can see that every year the temperature on earth is increasing. This means that our earth is getting hotter and hotter every day.

Coming to my real world; when you or I hear about news on environmental issues, we either ignore them or blame the government and our fellow human friends. But we never question ourselves 'how we are impacting the environment'. We are used to using high end gadgets (refrigerators, air conditioners, vehicles etc.). We are so used to them that we cant live without humans but cannot live without these robotic things around us.



It is not necessary that bushfires would happen only in a large forest area. It can happen even in our neighbourhood if there is a high temperature, land is surrounded by dry grass plants or trees and small trigger of fire happens just like that. I have witnessed bushfires in our Scouts and Guides District Training Centre, Pragathi Nagar, Manipal. Two years ago when we were having a Camp we have seen burning trees and plants and land turning to barren. Even though the fire is not on a large scale; if immediate steps are not taken, it can cause havoc. Bushfires happen at this site almost every year and volunteers are called for immediate help so that spreading of fire is handled and the affected land is taken care of.

What can you and I do to save the environment from such disasters?

We need to follow these points to take possible precautions -

- We should take care of the land that we own. Regular mowing of grass, dry leaves and pruning of weeds, bushes and trees should be facilitated.
- Regular cleaning of gutters, roofs and base of the trees.
- Ensuring the land is kept moist and time to time watering of plants, grass and trees, helps to keep the temperature on land under control.
- People staying nearby large forest areas should be educated on basic steps of fire control.

We are aware that most of the things are not under our control. As a common citizen, the least we can do is to love our Mother Earth. To do things that will help the nature to grow and thus helping us to grow and our younger generations to live peacefully.

- Lavia Menezes

President – YCS, Mother of Sorrows Church, Udupi

MY VISION FOR INDIA IN THE NEXT 5 YEARS



INDIA has become an independent country, more than a half century ago. The backwardness and under-development of our rural areas have drawn the attention of not only the planners but also those who are interested in the all around development of India. The numerous schemes which like the Community Development Programme, and crash programmes have not appreciably raised



the living-standard of the rural masses. Our population has tripled after independence. In recent times, corruption in different walks of life has grown tremendously. This has seriously undermined our progress and social life. Every society continues to change with name. It is most commonly heard that youth are useless, but in my perception youth are used less. Useless and used less both words have a minor difference of letter 'd' means development. Development is that which can change the nation. Every person has vision for his/her nation. My vision for India is what I am about to explain.

*Heal the world, make it a better place
For you and for me, And the entire human
race
There are people dying, if you care enough
for the living
Make it a better place, For you and for
me.....*

Am sure all of them heard this song. This song was sung by Michael Jackson, king of pop, singer, dancer. Eighth child of a working class. He made it because he was encouraged, he had the right opportunities which we have now. This song gives a beautiful meaning of how we can build the world or nation with humanity. To start with, my first vision for India in the next five years is obviously the same which all of us have is that India is called the developed nation and literally not called as developing nation. We have been calling India a developing nation from so long since we forgot the developments

that took place from past few years. From cooking food with wood to use of gas, from postcards to e-mail, from locomotive trains to metros, from land line to smart phone with 4G-5G, from classrooms to e-classroom, from lack of proper medical facilities to corporate hospitals, from damaged roads to national highways, from bullock carts to fights, development is change, development is visible, change is visible.

The vision of the country lies in the young man, we are the strength of our country. My next vision is that of a clean and green India. All the people of India are responsible towards cleanliness, they consider it as their duty to keep the nation clean. People will know the importance of water. " *Dance with the waves, move with a sea, let the rhythm of water set your soul free.*" How relieving it is, when a thirsty mouth is served with a gulp of water. Many people over India are facing the problem of water crisis. But in the next five years, the term water scarcity will be vanished. People will be aware of importance of growing trees. Trees will be planted in every streets, corners of the nation even in the cines so that all can inhale the fresh air. India would be pollution free, there would be proper disposal of wastes. The dream of Mahatma Gandhiji of *Swatch Bharat* would be turned into reality.

I love public speaking and I spoke in many places about my vision i.e., a full stop to sexual, domestic and family violence. I am totally against of women harassment.

Next comes the vision of better education system. The education system which we have at present never teaches about the importance of life, time management, s t r e s s management and many more. In 2025, education system in my vision is totally

different from the present, more importance will be given to practical ideas and skills. A high percentage of children living in villages are illiterate. Every children in India will have good opportunities of education by 2025. Education will be based on job requirements. As a result, thousands of students coming out of schools and colleges will be absorbed into various jobs without having to wait for long. Unemployment among the youth compels them to migrate to other places in search of jobs. But, if they start cottage and small scale industries, organise cooperative farming in rural areas, utilising the financial help offered by the banks and the government, these youth can find gainful employment. This is how our country youth should think and act according.



My next vision is corruption free India. 'Power corrupts man, that is why we have the common belief that absolute power corrupts even the angels.' Nowadays corruption is seen everywhere, even if a small file is to be passed from one table to another though it is legal work you have to pay certain amount. What is this happening actually? How can a nation be so corrupted, sometimes I feel shame to say such things. We are very proud of our nation and that we express only on two days i.e., independence day and republic day. What about the other days? We forget about the country. I just want every citizen of our country to stop corruption happening in front of them. If you and I can stop corruption then we all together can. If this doesn't happen

then obviously we need another Gandhiji to wake us from this stupor of illusion and ignorance.



I love public speaking and I spoke in many places about my next vision i.e., a full stop to sexual, domestic and family violence. I am totally against of women harassment. One of the best sentence said by Frederick Douglass, *"It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men."* This problem begins when you are young, so if youth can take it as their mission to mobilise men to use their strength for creating cultures free from violence then by 2025 this problem might take a full stop. The main thing is 'raise your voice', this is particularly to the youth of India. Where are our youth? Are they still wishing for another Gandhiji to wake up and stop all this? Our nation is independent but are the women of our country feel safe and secure? As a woman, I feel very scared to walk on the road alone because its India anything can happen here. I feel ,until and unless each and every citizen of India feels safe to walk on the road alone, that day our nation will be fully independent.

My vision for India in the next five years is one in which communalism and regionalism have disappeared. There would be no place for parochialism. The thinking of people would be healthy and they would respect every religion. It is truly said that, *"For a great men, religion is a way of making friends: small people make religion*

a fighting tool." Brotherhood would be a salient feature in 2025. Everyone would be following the principles of Gandhiji. Every citizen irrespective of caste, creed, religion and regional faith would be enjoying equal rights. In the next five years, we may not have a classless society, but the gap between the rich and the poor will be reduced to some extent. Every citizen of India irrespective of caste, creed, colour, race, sex and religion will enjoy the basic necessities of food, clothing and shelter. In every village there will be electricity, portable water, good roads, hospitals, schools and colleges. There would be no fight between the religion because India represents 'Unity in diversity.' Also, it will be a place where there is freedom of equality to all and everyone can enjoy it in their true sense.

Agriculture is the backbone of the country's economic growth. Approximately 70 percent of the population lives in villages and depend on agriculture. Our Government is trying at its best to provide them with modern equipment to increase the production. The government would have instructed the financial institutions to provide more credit facilities on priority basis to the farmers, the picture of Indian economy would improve and the farmers would be prosperous. The production of food grains would be increased to a large extent and India would not import food grains, such as wheat from other countries. On the economic terms my vision for India is where there is no poverty and misery among people.



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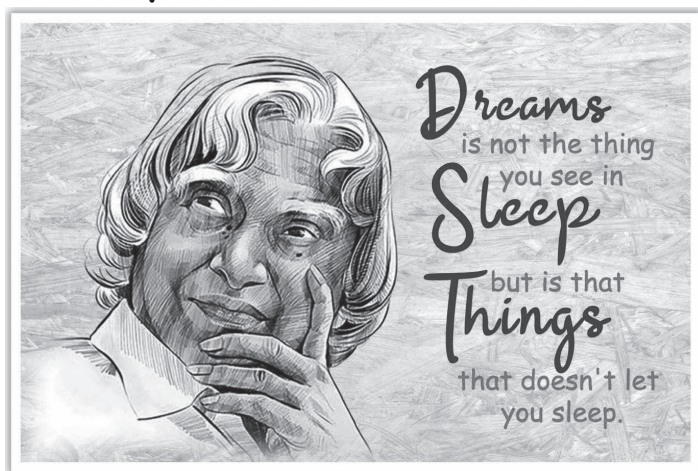
And the most important, vision of India's political system. The politicians would be working sincerely for their country people. The people are satisfied with the administration of the ruling democratic party. The people would be given full justice. The reports of cases of corrupt officials have died down in numbers. The most dreadful system of our country is the political system which has to be changed. I feel that if youth take part in politics then it would be a great sacrifice for our nation because the system requires young minds whose ideas can be used to change the system. "If ever a time should come, when vain and aspiring men shall possess the highest seats in Government, our country will stand in need of its experienced patriots to prevent its ruin," one of the best quotes I have read and its true.

Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam had a vision of India 2020 in which he visualised India as one of the most advanced and developed country of the world. But the year 2020 appears to be totally opposite visualisation by so many disasters happening around and which is far distant from what Abdul Kalam had dreamed. Although, we have made quite good developments in certain areas, we are still lagging in many aspects. It is very well said, "It is not the violence of the bad people but the silence of the good people that destroys the society. It is not

the activity of the traitors but the inactivity of the good people that destroys the society." India has the largest youth force in the world then why don't the youth raise their voice when something wrong is happening.

Today the motherland is yearning for such youth, such dedicated, committed and selfless volunteers who are ready to work for the re-establishment and revival of our mother India. What is missing today? All sacrifices made, all battles won, nation got freedom but what went wrong? A few decades back we witnessed a revolution which brought us the fruits of freedom and today after so many years of independence, we are still slaves. Yes we are slaves of mind. Today many gadgets and many wonders are discovered by modern science. Science had reached the level of discovery and invention, but today also the biggest discovery of this world, the true human being, the real human being is still undiscovered.

By 2025, India would be far different as compared to that at present. It would have established new standards of progress. Moral, social education and values would be on peak. Era of frozen postures would have been ended and 4P's , Peace, Production, Progress and Peculiarity would give name and fame to India. We can achieve all these if we work



with required will and determination. Let us unite ourselves to make India peaceful, prosperous and a true Welfare State. So far, I have discussed my vision of India in the next five years in which I can play a small part. I can't expect myself to bring all the transformations unless my fellowmen share my vision and are willing to work along with to realize the vision. "We will be remembered only if we give to our younger generation a prosperous and safe INDIA, resulting out of economic prosperity coupled with civilisation heritage."

As a youth, how can I contribute to my vision? I will try to work with full dedication and sincerity in the best interests of my

nation. I will try to act as a better citizen of India. As Pope Francis said, 'young men I say to you arise.' Yes it's the time to wake up and do something to our motherland. I will try to ensure that I can make impact on the field that I have chosen. I would try to spread my vision in my neighbourhood and teach others to work whole heartedly for the progress of our country. As a youth I just want to say to my brothers and sisters, 'THE NATION NEEDS US, LET'S WAKE UP, IT'S THE TIME. LET US BE THE EPICENTER FOR THE CHANGE... LET US BE THE CHANGE THE WORLD WISHES TO SEE.' ♣

- Solita Rodrigues, Diocese of Udupi
(This essay won the First prize at the National Essay writing competition)



IYCS meeting with YCS/YSM India

U Report

On 12 April 2021, IYCS Secretariat organised a meeting with YCS/YSM India on the 'Global U Report'. The meeting was convened by Mr. Innocent Odongo, IYCS Secretary General and Mr. Moses, IYCS coordinator and in-charge of U-report for IYCS elaborated the importance, functions, and benefits of U- Report. A detailed PPT presentation was made to help the participants from India understand better.

Mr. Moses informed the participants that IYCS had signed a global partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to establish a global youth movement for positive social change through the U Report Global platform to enable communication, information sharing, opinion polling and evidence-based advocacy among youth globally. This U-Report platform helps one to receive and send information and to have one to one dialogue with U-Report members.

The main aspect of U-Report is to share awareness, and information to all the members. This is a platform where participants can share their ideas, opinions and issues and get support to overcome such issues. Mr. Moses further encourages the students' participants to be members of U report and can make use whatsapp, Facebook messenger and told the participants that their name would remain anonymous.

Mr. Odongo at his concluding remarks made a request to YCS/YSM national team to encourage the students members from India to join and take active part in this U report. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks and on the willingness of the national team to support and encourage the students to join the global U report.

- Ashita Jimmy, Deril D'Sa, National Team

PROFILE

FROM NIGHT GUARD TO IIM PROFESSOR:

Ranjith Ramachandran, who goes by the name 'Ranjith R Panathoor' on Facebook, said that he wants everyone to "dream good" and fight for their dreams. [PTI] |

From a night watchman earning a pittance to graduating from the hallowed portals of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) and now an Assistant Professor at IIM, Ranchi, it has been a remarkable journey for 28-year-old Ranjith Ramachandran, inspiring many to fight adverse circumstances in their lives. "An IIM professor was born here," reads his post on Facebook, along with a picture of his dilapidated tiled hut covered with a tarpaulin sheet to prevent rainwater from seeping in. His inspirational April 9 post in which he shared his story, went viral, garnering over 37,000 likes. Finance Minister T M Thomas Isaac also took to Facebook to congratulate Ramachandran, who goes by the name 'Ranjith R Panathoor' on social media, saying he is a source of inspiration to everyone.

Ramachandran was working as a night watchman at a BSNL telephone exchange at Panathur in Kasaragod, while he pursued his Economics degree from the St Pious X College in the district. "I attended college during daytime and worked at the telephone exchange at night," he posted. Graduating with honours, he got into IIT, Madras, where



he found it difficult to study as he knew only Malayalam. Despondent, he decided to quit the PhD programme, but was persuaded by his guide Dr Subhash to not do so.

"I decided to fight and realise my dream," he wrote. Fight he did and earned his doctorate in the year 2020. For two months, he worked as an Assistant Professor at Christ University, Bengaluru. "I never thought the post would go viral. I posted my life story, hoping that it would inspire a few others. I want everyone to dream good and fight for their dreams. I want other people to get inspired from this and find success," he told reporters. Ramachandran recalled in his post that he nearly gave up his school education due to financial hardships. His father is a tailor and mother, a daily wage worker under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural

Employment Guarantee Scheme. The Finance Minister praised Ramachandran in his post, saying, "From the moment he felt he was defeated, he turned his life and achieved success and it's an inspiration to



everyone. We have before us the life stories of great personalities, including K R Narayanan, who attained success with extraordinary willpower."

"The lives of people like Ranjith, who refuse to get discouraged due to various crisis and use education as a weapon to overcome social and economic backwardness, are an inspiration to all," he said while sharing Ramachandran's post. ♣

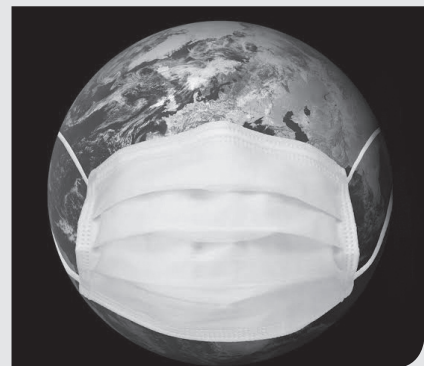
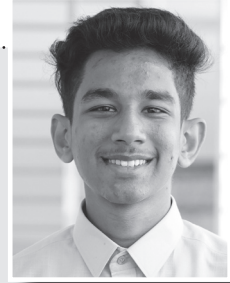
LOCKDOWN AGAIN?

Exactly a year ago Covid-19 pandemic disrupted our lives all over the world. Though the cases were not many but the Government took all the safety measures and declared a nation wide **lock down** for a month. While the cases were increasing rapidly; the death rate was under control. The government had planned **unlock** in different phases. People were so aware of covid and took all the safety measures. When we thought that Corona virus has gone and people started taking it easy by not maintaining social distancing and using masks, Corona has struck again. This time it is worse than the last time. Who is responsible; we or the government?. I think both are equally responsible. While people threw the covid restriction to the air, governments were busy in election rallies. They relaxed norms so much so there were massive religious gatherings which turned out to be super spreaders of the virus. The present situation is very bad and everyday over 2.5 Lakh cases are reported. Thousands of people have died and many are critical. Though the government was late in implementing restrictions this time, we should have been careful. Each life matters and we need to follow the norms when we are asked to follow. Even now I see people are not serious about following Covid norms and spreading the virus putting others' life in risk.

We students need to do something now. How many people know that the second wave is dangerous than the first one? According to me very few people know about this because the situation is that worse and the death rate is increasing. In YCS/YSM our objective is 'Change self and change others'. As YCSer let us set an example for others by maintaining social distancing, using masks every time. Let's spread awareness and help people. I am with you all. Are you all with me? Let's not break this chain and we will be able to defeat this second wave of Coronavirus. Remember one thing: your carelessness may lead to others' death.

Long live YCS

- L. Joseph Pranay Reddy, Nexco (Telugu)



THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

LOVING WITHOUT MEASURE

IYCS Theological Reflection for the month of April 2021

Search



Fr Achille A. d'ALMEIDA
IYCS Chaplain

Three months of the year 2021 have already elapsed. Prospects have been drawn up and resolutions were taken. How these objectives ought to be achieved by the end of the year must already be put in place. There is the tendency that our usual way of doing things may take over but remember: We now want to think differently, act with God, and then discover Him through our commitment. This means that our life today must be more inclusive, bringing closer to God our very personality, our neighbors, and our surroundings. These are the different directions that our reflection for this month will focus on.

Our Personality

From our mother's womb, we are predestined to fulfill a mission for our creator. Many of us have had difficulty identifying this mission, living it, and then carrying it out to its utmost

fulfillment.

Others have not had

difficulty finding themselves as builders of a world that inspires hope and joy. The question is, where am I? How should I position myself in this analysis? Am I aware of my mission? How useful has my baptism been? How many souls will be saved just because of my testimony of life? Very often, we follow others in their trajectories of life, just for the sake of form, the moment of entertainment or enjoyment, the time of a much fun-shared moment, and then we leave the places at the very moment when the world needs workers of peace. « He said to them: "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. We, therefore, pray that the master of the harvest (God) send workers during his harvest." » Luke 10:2. At the end of the reading of this reflection, each one should identify his mission within the IYCS, within his family, within his/her community...

It will be a very good beginning to forge his commitment to our God who has an everlasting love for us....

Our Neighbours

"The LORD asked Cain, "Where is your brother Abel? " he responded "...Am I my brother's keeper? »...

» Gen4: 9. Sooner or later, this question will come to us. What will be your answer? It's really scary sometimes when you think about it because our world today advocates



for individualism or selfishness that has not been the case previously. Do we always care about the other person? Very soon we will enter the Easter solemnities. This time comes in a favorable way so that each of us with a renewal of energy to look at the important things in our lives once again. Love... How much do we love each other? What is the ideal we are walking towards together? Do we see how many times joy is increased by ten folds when it is shared? Is the pain less heavy when it is experienced by a group of people? True and sincere love is what the whole world needs today. From our schools, our homes, our various meeting places, love should be the only word that we exhibit. God was the first to love us with all his heart. Everyday, he shows us this path that leads to him and that every human being must follow this path. Let us then get on board and the journey of life will remain peaceful for each of us.

Our Surrounding

Sometimes we wonder about the purpose of love. What pushes a being to surrender to another for some purpose? Obtaining favors, security, glory, consideration...are many things that someone could expect from his family before loving them. In the eyes of the world, it would be very difficult if not impossible to see a person love without expecting something in return. For them, taking care of others always gives an idea about what others will do for us. And yet, my brothers and sisters, there

are brothers and sisters all over the world. "All those who had become believers were united and put everything as one. They sold their possessions and goods and divided the income among all according to the needs of each one" Acts 2:44-45. Thanks to the Spirit we have received, compassion and the act of sharing must be part of our actions even if we believe the gifts are too little. Truth is, this will necessarily serve someone else. Let us not forget our Preferential Option for the Poor (PPO), let us not hesitate to anchor in our habits this practice that has long guided Mother Theresa in her fight against injustice in society.

The YCS works alongside the poor and oppressed in society to bring them some comfort because of the sufferings they endure daily. Thousands and thousands of young people are the ones who work every day in the fulfillment of this dream. What is my responsibility in this daily work? Sometimes we think that it is the leaders who are at the national or international level who should take sole responsibility, but in reality, it is everyone's business. Everyone must work at his or her level so that those around him or her feel the benefits of this movement that we all cherish. What is the use of a Christian community in an environment of constant strife and hatred? Only love can triumph over evil. Let us be guided by its word.

Rediscovering our role in the Church, living it, and assuring it is a true awareness for each one of us. It is a moment of renewal of our being and of the positive influence we are called to LOVE one another. This reflection is intended to be a path that helps us rediscover love without measure in all its fullness. May it continually guide us on our paths towards our ideal? I, therefore, propose this prayer to support us in this quest for true love. ●





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REPORTS

KARNATAKA

Udupi diocesan animators Annual Training Programme 2021

The Diocesan Animators Annual Training programme was held on 14 March 2021 at Bishop’s House, Udupi. In total there were 45 animators present for this training programme. The day began with the Holy Eucharist celebrated by Fr. Edwin D’Souza the diocesan chaplain.

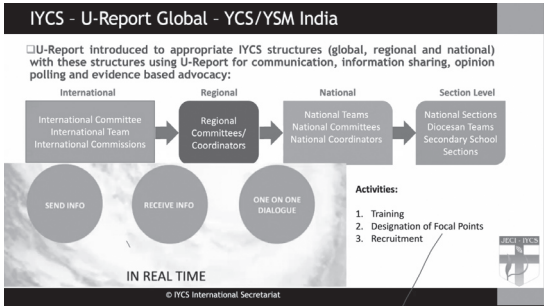


Followed by the Eucharist, Fr. Charles Menezes, former National and International Chaplain of YCS explained the role of an animator in the movement and gave detailed presentation about the spirituality of the movement. He encouraged the newly appointed animators to work selflessly for the betterment of the student members. Animators also clarified their doubts.

Later, Fr. Edwin explained about how to proceed with the unit meetings and activities by conducting cell meetings by following the covid guidelines. He also spoke about the future programmes of the diocese and

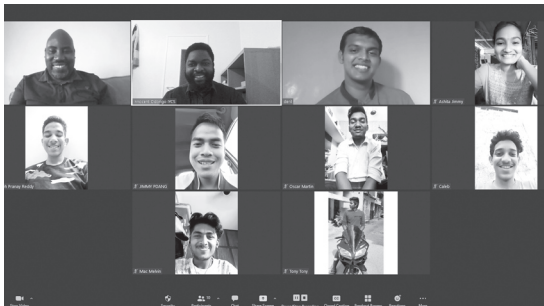
motivated them to be dedicated towards their duty of being a animators. Hence the animators training programme 2021 concluded with a fellowship meal.

- Deril D’Sa
National Coordinator



IYCS Secretariat organised a meeting with YCS/YSM India on the ‘Global U Report’ on 12 April 2021. The meeting was convened by Mr. Innocent Odongo, IYCS Secretary General and Mr. Moses, IYCS coordinator and in-charge of U- report for IYCS elaborated the importance, functions, and benefits of U- Report. 8 members from YCS/YSM attended this meeting.

- Deril D’Sa



“BURNING BIOSPHERE- A BURNING ISSUE”



Introduction

India's largest biosphere, Simlipal National Park in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district, frequently witnesses forest fires during dry weather conditions, every year. The fires which generally go unnoticed due to a lack of media coverage. So I want to write about the issues where wild fires have occurred in other parts of the world where media has failed to cover.

Cause of the forest fires and its environmental disasters.

Forest fires are caused by natural causes as well as man made causes.

Natural causes- Many forest fires start from natural causes such as lightning which set trees on fire. However, rain extinguishes such fires without causing much damage. High atmospheric temperatures and dryness (low humidity) offer favorable circumstance for a fire to start.

Man made causes- Fire is caused when a source of fire like naked flame, cigarette or bidi, electric spark or any source of ignition comes into contact with inflammable material.

Environmental causes- Largely related to climatic conditions such as temperature, wind speed and direction, level of moisture in soil and atmosphere and duration of dry spells. Other natural causes are the friction of bamboos swaying due to high wind velocity and rolling stones that result in sparks setting off fires in highly inflammable leaf litter on the forest floor.

Global concerns and climatic issues and crises.

Climate change has been a key factor in increasing the risk and extent of wildfires in the Western United States. Wildfire risk depends on a number of factors, including temperature, soil moisture, and the presence of trees, shrubs, and other potential fuel. All these factors have strong direct or indirect ties to climate variability and climate change. Climate change enhances the drying of organic matter in forests.

Prevention Of Forest Fires.

Over the last few years, technology has taken a big leap and made progress in smart technologies such as Internet of Things (IoT) sensors, artificial intelligence (AI), cameras, and drones. These smart technologies have opened new doors for us to be able to better prevent and effectively respond to bushfires.

- **IoT:** IoT Sensors can measure so many different parameters like temperature, humidity, CO2 etc. With sensors, you could monitor different parameters to detect (and prevent) wildfires.
- **Drones:** Drones can be used to: Survey the fire, extinguish fires, help restore and rebuild infrastructure, find and save people and animals etc.

Conclusion:

We should conserve the forest for the future generations and for our livelihood. Tropical rainforests are often called the “lungs of the planet” because they generally draw in carbon dioxide and breathe out oxygen. But the amount of carbon dioxide they absorb, or produce, varies hugely with year-to-year variations in the climate. Because we humans pollute the Mother Nature by our day to day activities.

- Loyd Lobo

YCS Byndoor, Udupi

I Wish.... I could re-live my Youth!

Preview: *This is a short story in the form of a poem, where a person realises that he had misunderstood the concern of his parents. His anger takes him ahead of life and he realises the most precious thing he had lost was; when he has similar experiences with his son. He wishes that he had an opportunity to re-live his youth and be with his parents.*

Time just Flew like waves in the sea
It was too late for me to be conscious;
About what I could have been.
Here is a short tale of me
which I would wish to change;
If ever, could it be.

When I was in my teens, I thought I was strong in mind and body
My Father who was My Hero until then; now seemed nothing to me.
He was old, and I found his words of wisdom to be outdated,
His taste of clothes and movies to be old fashioned.
His words of concern; to be mere restrictions
I was ashamed of Going out with him and scared of being caught of my 'GOOD DEEDS'!

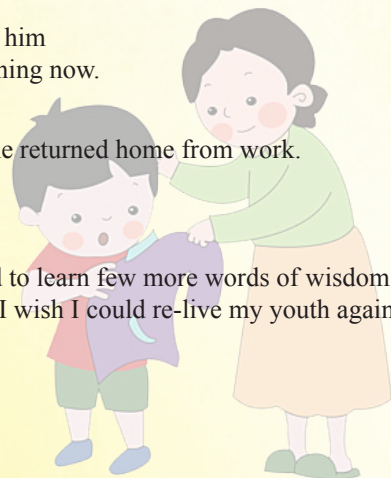
My mother who was an epitome of goddess, turned out to be a spy always checking on me
That joy of opening the tiffin and knowing the favourite dish she cooked for me; was gone
I didn't find anything attractive in her anymore,
I just felt she was a drama queen with emotions on peak round the clock.
She no longer took my side and complained to my father of what a spoilt brat I was
My friends were no longer welcomed home, I was stuck with no support around.

I left home to be an independent Man, and knew it was the happiest day in my life.
I ignored their calls, had danced to the ample time with my friends.
The weekends were joy, with no time boundaries or a watch dog
I thanked god for a new life and wished those days of embarrassment were never back
Probably God heard my prayers that day, but it was something my soul didn't wish for
I lost 'My hero' and 'My Goddess' on that fateful night.
With keeping my heart and mind strong, I thought gone is gone!
I have my new place, my friends who care for me more than anything else
Days, months and years passed, Everything around me changed as if I was travelling in a time Machine
I was a Father now and always felt proud of my son,
I didn't care of his tantrums, I only expected love in return from him
He was in his teens, and I felt a movie replayed with a new meaning now.

Oh, I miss 'My hero' today, the touch of his hands
His never losing spirit and the joy in his eyes seeing me; when he returned home from work.
Oh, I miss 'my goddess', with all love she had to give me
She asked me no thing, but just a smile in return.
How could I treat them as a curse, when they were a blessing
I realise today, I saw the picture from the wrong side and missed to learn few more words of wisdom.
I wish I experienced this day with proudness of being their son, I wish I could re-live my youth again
with no regrets!

- **Lavia Menezes**

President – YCS, Mother of Sorrows Church, Udupi



YCS/YSM INDIA ACTIVITIES



SUPPORT COMMUNIO INDIA

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