



# ICA VOICE

A NEWSLETTER OF INDIA CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY NEW YORK

88-40 192nd Street, Hollis, New York 11423

Private Circulation Only

April 2009, Volume 2, Issue 1

www.nyica.org

## GOD'S WILL

Rev. Antony V. Rocky



As we go through our daily routines we are unconsciously and consciously making decisions as our day progresses.

Whether it means choosing a different route to work or skipping that cup of coffee because you're running late, we all make decisions. Not every decision we are faced with is easy to make. Sometimes we are faced with difficult circumstances where we have to pause and think before taking action and we call out to God to intervene and guide our steps. Tough circumstances and problems show no discrimination. It effects all ages, races and genders. Problems may vary from group to group. For instance, the younger generation may be confronted with tough questions about their vocations, their marriage and other issues. A middle-aged person may be seeking guidance over a decision about a career change and their welfare of their children. The elderly may be faced with the decision of selling their home and moving into a retirement community or with their children.

Although we may face trials we can rest assured that God's will, will be done and will lead us to lead a positive productive life.

Exodus 33:12-14 Moses said to the Lord, "You have been telling me, 'Lead these people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. You have said, 'I know you by name and you have found favor with me.' If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people." The Lord replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." Moses fled Egypt, leaving all what he had and the attention he received to live a private life with his family, not knowing God's purpose in his life. God's call came upon Moses at a moment of isolation and he was given a great responsibility. Moses, however, was not satisfied with what he heard from God because he knew this task given to him would be difficult. It was very important for Moses to know God's will upon this matter and he sought God for guidance, and God spoke to him saying these comforting words, "My presence will go with you."

Where do we find God's will and is it possible to know in our lives?

If you are curious to know the answer, it is simply this: through His word, through prayer and through wise counsel.

### God's will is revealed through His word.

There was once a TV game show called "Let's Make a Deal" hosted by Monty Hall that aired from 1963-1986. Some of you may be too young to remember this show but the concept was simple. Monty would select contestant from the crowd and offer them a chance to win fabulous

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## A Passion for the Lost

Rev. Joseph T George (Joji Achan)

Before Jesus was taken up to heaven, He said to His disciples "You will be my witness in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). He also commanded them "to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Mt 28:19). This is the great commission given by Jesus to his disciples to obey and fulfill. On the day of Pentecost, the disciples received the power of the Holy Spirit "they saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that are separated and come to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them" (Acts 2:4). Since then they began to carry out the mission Jesus entrusted with them. They preached the gospel, healed the sick, baptized them and the people began to know about Jesus.

Like the disciples, every Christian is chosen and called to be a witness to Jesus Christ. Once they were sinners and now have the privilege to be called Children of God. The God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believe in him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16). God sent his only Son not to condemn the world and sinners, but to save them through him. Jesus suffered, was crucified, shed the last drop of his blood for our salvation. Jesus said "I am the light, the way and the truth; no one goes to the Father but through me." The salvation and eternal life is only through Jesus Christ. Now, being the disciples of Jesus, it is the responsibility of Christians to witness Jesus to others and lead the lost to salvation. Do you have a passion for the lost to lead them to salvation so they would not perish?

The first and foremost duty of a Christian is to obey Jesus, be a witness for Jesus by sharing the gospel of love with non believers or those who have never heard about Jesus. There are thousands people around the world who have never heard about Jesus or eternal life. They are the lost ones we should search for. Do you have a passion to go after them and to share the good news of the love of Jesus? We meet people in school, college, work places and shopping malls. As Christians, how many of us wish to reach out to them, share the good news, and bring them to salvation before they perish?

The greatest missionary the world has ever seen is Paul. He became the enemy of the church, persecuted Christians, and was breathing out murderous threats against the disciples; but the Lord has said, "This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel" (Acts 9:15). During his missionary journeys he saved numerous souls although he went through trials, tests and tribulations. After Paul, God called thousands of missionaries. He is still calling people to be his chosen instrument for the extension of His Kingdom. Due to the tireless and dedicated life of missionaries across the world, the gospel is preached, the love of Jesus is shared, the lost are found, the sinners are saved, and the sick are healed.

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## Secretary's Note

### OUR TOP PRIORITY – GOD AND HIS KINGDOM



We entered the new year of 2009 with great hope and expectations but the whole world especially America has been faced with one of the greatest financial meltdowns in history. The effects of the country's financial crisis are being felt by millions of people.

Thousands of people either lost their jobs or have taken pay cuts. There are others who may have their retirement or pension funds drained by the stock market crash. People do not have the resources to pay for their mortgages so many lost their houses. It is a scary time for all of us.

The new American President, since taking office has been trying to turn the economy around but every day we see the opposite. So people are asking the question 'what will happen to tomorrow'? Will it be better than today?

As believers, do we need to worry about tomorrow? If anyone says no, it may not be true because like un-believers, believers are also human beings, so they may have the same worries and it is natural. Most of us are worrying about our daily affairs like sickness, food, clothing, shelter and children. In Matthew 6:25-34, Jesus Christ advises us not to worry about the temporal things because our times are in his good and mighty hands. God knows what we need, what we desire and what is fit for us. Be not anxious about the future, how you shall live next day, next year or when you are old or what you shall leave behind for your spouse, children etc. God made man in his own image and has given us body and life, so in the sight of God we are much more valuable and precious than the birds of the air and the lilies of the field. Life is more important than the food and the body is more important than the clothing. God wants us to believe and trust in him more. Jesus said, seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and that all other things (we need) shall be added unto you. If we take care of our soul which is more important than the body, we can leave it to God to provide food & clothing etc which are less important. Give priority to the kingdom of God and then God will take care of us. It is the will and command of the Lord Jesus that through daily prayer we get strength to bear the daily troubles and to equip ourselves against the temptations that come with them. Then none of these things will move us. Let us spend more time in the presence of God and meditate upon His Word in the coming days so that we may get victory over all unnecessary worries and become more useful to the plan and purpose of God.

Samuel Chacko

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### ADDRESS BOOK

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or send to [addressbook@nyica.org](mailto:addressbook@nyica.org)

## SECOND CHANCE

Tiji George.

She was just as normal as any other girl was, she was spontaneous, filled with life and had the ability to light up a room with laughter. She knew what the truth was; she knew her living God. But, somewhere along the way she drifted to a world uncaring for those around her, found the basic pleasures in her life way important than church and sought her computer as her temple. Day by day she found herself being more interested in boys while the words of wisdom from her parents merely faded away. She ran as far as she could, she ran to the tip of the cliff until she finally found herself at the brink of death. As death stared her in the face, as suicide tasted like honey, she felt a strong force pulling her back. It pulled her so far, so strong, so fast that today she found herself living a life marked as the "second chance."

Many of us in our Christian walk find ourselves drifting or running away as an act of rebellion. I call this the "Jonah phase." God called Jonah to go to Nineveh, for there awaited a higher purpose for him. Nineveh had more to offer Jonah than the Ninevites themselves. So when God called him to go to Nineveh he went to Tarshish. When God called him to go right, Jonah went left. Jonah went as far as his boat could possibly take him but amidst his struggle to run away, the Lord sent the great fish to give Jonah his "second chance." (Jonah 1: 1-17)

There are three ways God brings us back as we sail away. Each one holds true to its symbolism and as we look back into our lives we'll truly see why we tend to cry ourselves to sleep at night or question the very existence of our God.

**The Fishing Net:** God uses the fishing net when he sees that we have the potential to return back to him and be faithful. A catholic friend of mine comes to mind as I think of this. She attended church on very rare occasions and one day God brought her to a meeting in our church. There the Lord decided to fish her painlessly and bring her close by his heart for he must have seen the promise she held. Many a time when we find ourselves going back to God because our conscience is asking us to return, remember that the Lord is using his fishing net to bring us back. Saul was one of many who were brought to light through this strategy. (Acts 9:1-19)

**The Fishing Pole:** This strategy tends to be common among the youth. If you find yourselves day by day drifting to the opposite direction from what God called you towards then remember that sooner or later a hard tug is on your way. Today maybe you find yourselves partying excessively, drinking, sneaking out of the house, having fights with parents regularly or finding pleasure in materialistic gains. This is a sign that God is letting you run as far as you can until finally he'll use that fishing pole to reel you back to him with such a strong force, a strong tug that at times it tends to be painful. In my own personal life I have found myself being tugged back with such a strong force that I had to endure an extremely painful situation in my own life.

**The Herding Dogs:** If you watch the Animal Planet then you must be familiar with what herding dogs are. Herding dogs are trained to bring stray animals back to the group they belong in. This strategy happens to be the most painful of all. If you find yourselves at the brink of suicide, divorce, bankruptcy, extreme addictions then this is for you. Keep in mind that God is not a quitter; he just doesn't know how to give up on you.

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## SECOND CHANCE

But in order to subside our sinfulness God has to let you drag yourselves through the wilderness on your own. In such a phase you may find yourselves alone and beaten but sooner or later the Lord sends his Herding Dogs towards you. These dogs will bite you but they will drag you back to where you initially belonged. So maybe that particular addiction, economic crisis, family problem might be biting you cruelly but those very same dogs are about to bring you back to that Lord.

At this very moment maybe you are going through one of the above. Maybe your problems are as simple as self-esteem issues or as big as car accidents. Maybe your conflicts are as simple as low grades in school or as big as cancer. Our problems are many but we fail to realize that these great fishes aren't sent by God to swallow us alive rather to give us a second chance at life. It's funny how we call it a second chance when in reality God is giving us a chance at a new beginning, a new start, a new chapter every single day. So as your eyes flutter open every morning, always begin your day by thanking the Lord for giving you the "second chance" at making things right.



**A FRIENDLY REMINDER**  
PYFA Membership dues to Sajan Johnson  
IPC Women's Fellowship dues to  
Sheeba Abraham

## GOD'S WILL

prizes. For instance, he may offer you \$100 for every paper clip you have in your possession or may just give you \$500. The contestant is then faced with the choice of keeping the money or trading it for what's in behind curtain number one. Now, there could be anything behind this curtain, anything from a cash prize of \$1,000, or a single can of dog food. This is where there may be conflicting emotions going through the contestants mind, should he keep what he has or should he risk a sure thing for an unknown?

We may face a "Let's Make a Deal" moment in our lives. We may face a time where we have a decision to keep what we have or take a risk. Our future may lie hidden behind a curtain of uncertainty. Will the decisions we make, and the paths we take be the right ones? Will we find success and purpose in life or will we find disappointment and loss? At those times, we must remember that God is there to lead us in making these decisions to take the "right path", a reminder seen in Psalms 27:11 "Teach me your way, O Lord; lead me in a straight path."

Don't trade your life for a life of uncertainty. Instead, you should go for things that are sure and certain, and the only sure thing is God's Word. May God help each and every one of us because we can all find God's will through the help of His word. When we struggle with difficult decisions or situations God's word will come to the rescue and show us the right path. Life is not for gamble; it is serious and important because God has given us responsibilities to fulfill daily.

### God's will through prayer.

The Bible is not the only way in which God makes His will known. God's word does not specially address which house you should buy, which job we should accept or to whom you should marry.

God wants us to ask him in prayer and we see a perfect example of our Lord Jesus in Mathew 26:39 going a little further, He fell with his face to the ground and prayed "my father if it is possible may this cup be taken, yet not as my will but as you will." Even Jesus found God's will through prayer.

When we pray for God's guidance we must be careful to listen only to God. When we are surrounded by sounds of doubt we must realize that that would never come from God, Jesus, himself, needed to hear from God in the middle of many discouraging voices. We must be careful not to drown God's voice with the conflicting voices of the world. Our greatest hindrance may be people around us, they may pressure us and push and pull us in many different directions. We must be very careful listen to God. When we face voices of discouragement or we feel confused, we must go pray again as our Lord did in the Garden of Gethsemane and make sure the voice that we are hearing is from God.

### God's will through Godly Counsel.

Too often we let our pride keep us from listening to or acting upon the wise Godly advice of others. We do not want anyone to know that we need help, because we live in a society where people aim to be independent in every way. Children between the ages of 10 & 12 often argue with their parents and say, "You don't have tell me anything, I know everything and leave me alone!" We are not perfect and sometimes the decisions that we make may lead us in the wrong direction and at that time we must seek wise counseling from Godly people. Don't turn your life to those who are not Christians, their advice will not give Godly guidance.

In Exodus 18:15 -24 Moses had a very difficult job ahead of himself. He needed to solve any and all problems that would arise. At that time his father in-law came and observed how Moses acted in these situations, and then advised him and let him know that if he was going to do the job alone it would be too much for him to handle. Moses could have simply rejected his father in-law's advice because he knows more than his father in-law, but Moses was willing to take the advice and he knew it was Godly advice. We all need a good friend whom we can depend on, maybe it's your Sunday School Teacher or your Pastor or a believer to share and receive advice with.

When problems arise in your life don't turn to an ungodly person for advice even though that person may be a good friend of yours. God's will is not some unsolvable mystery, if we faithfully apply the tools such as Bible study, prayer, and godly counsel. We can live each day in the confidence that God is directing our decisions. So let us ask God and pray "O God keep me in the center of your will and make me to know your will" if you can make that kind of commitment, God will straighten your path.



**NEWLY BORN**  
 **Bibi & Manju blessed with daughter**  
**LEAHA**

## Congratulation to the Newly Weds

 **SHINNY**  
&  
**Paul**

## MEETINGS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES APRIL 2009

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 01** PRAYER MEETING 7:30 PM @ ICA  
**FRIDAY, APRIL 03** FASTING & PRAYER 10:00 AM @ ICA  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 04** PRAISE & WORSHIP 7:30 PM @ ICA  
 P.Y.P.A. NEW JERSEY CONVENTION (APRIL 3-5)  
 @ TEANECK, NEW JERSEY.  
**SUNDAY, APRIL 05** SUNDAY SCHOOL & WORSHIP SERVICE  
 PCNAK PROMO MEETING 5:00 PM @ IPC QUEENS  
**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 08** PRAYER MEETING 7:30 PM @ ICA  
**FRIDAY, APRIL 10** FASTING & PRAYER 10:00 AM @ ICA  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 11** COMBINED MEETING 7:30 PM @ ICA  
**SUNDAY, APRIL 12** SUNDAY SCHOOL & WORSHIP SERVICE  
**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15** PRAYER MEETING 7:30 PM @ ICA  
**FRIDAY, APRIL 17** FASTING & PRAYER 10:00AM @ ICA  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 18** PRAISE & WORSHIP 7:30PM @ ICA  
**SUNDAY, APRIL 19** SUNDAY SCHOOL & WORSHIP SERVICE  
**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22** PRAYER MEETING 7:30PM @ ICA  
**FRIDAY, APRIL 24** FASTING & PRAYER 10:00AM @ ICA  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 25** SUNDAY SCHOOL FELLOWSHIP NITE 6:00 PM @ ICA  
**SUNDAY, APRIL 26** SUNDAY SCHOOL & WORSHIP SERVICE  
**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29** PRAYER MEETING 7:30PM @ ICA



**REV. BIJU VARGHESE & PHEBA**  
 254 - 21, UNION TPK, APT # 1  
 GLEN OAKS, NY 11004

*Congratulation to the Newly Weds*



**BENLY**  
 &  
**NIMCY**



### Prayer Requests

- † Rev. Joseph T. George
- † Varghese Thannickal
- † Saji Pathalil
- † Susy George
- † Stanley Varghese
- † Sam Mathew
- † Rev. M.I. Thomas
- † Ammini George



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 creations in ICA Voice, please email to  
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### Contn. from.....Pg. 1 **A Passion for the Lost**

Jesus loves sinners and he died for them. Do you earnestly desire to witness of Jesus to others so that "they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will" (2 Timothy 2:26). The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ (Romans 6:23). Who wants to perish? Who wants to be the slave to Sin? Who wants to receive wages of sins and spend the eternity in Hell? Do you have passion for those who are not saved?

The power of the Gospel is so powerful to transform a person's sinful life into a new life. If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old is gone, the new has come (2 Corinth 5:17). Once, a 14 year-old boy said to me that his ambition is to become a pastor in the future. I asked him why he wanted to become a pastor. He said, "my only dream is to save lost souls for the Lord at any cost." Do we have a passion for the lost, a thirst for the souls? Are you ready to execute the great commission of the Lord to go and make disciples? Do you want to share the love of Jesus you experience with others? Do you want your non-believer friends to be perished? or saved?

Apostle Paul was a chosen vessel. God chose him to convey his grace to all men. When he was filled with Holy Spirit, the Spirit transformed him, convinced him of his sin, convinced him of the Lordship of Christ, and commissioned and empowered him for the service. When God commissioned Jonah to go to Nineveh, he initially refused to carry out the mission. He suffered the consequences of his disobedience and afterwards became a great missionary to the people of Nineveh.

If you have a passion for the lost, have desire to convey God's grace to people, have dedication to share the good news, rise up and shine for the lord. Live a life worthy of the calling you have received. If you have passion to save the lost, like the apostle Paul, put on the full armor of God. God will strengthen you, the Holy Spirit will give you the power and guidance to fulfill the mission. "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes". Rom. 1:16

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### THE MACEDONIAN CALL . . . .

**Did you know that there are 310 Unreached and Unengaged\* people groups with more than 100,000 population in India alone?**

**Who will go? Who will tell? Who will pray? "Go and make disciples of all nations....." the task is still unfinished.....**

**\*Unengaged: These groups currently have no missionary or Christian worker attempting to plant a church within the group.**

G.A



### APRIL 09

Blessy Varghese	04/19
Micheal George Pappachen	04/20
Steven Andrew Daniel	04/22
Jivin Joseph	04/24
Rachel Philip	04/25

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