



ICA VOICE

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GET YOUR FOCUS OFF YOURSELF ONTO GOD AND OTHERS.

This is a short interview with Rick Warren , "Purpose Driven Life " author and pastor of Saddleback Church in California .In the interview by Paul Bradshaw with Rick Warren, Rick said:

People ask me, What is the purpose of life? And I respond: In a nutshell, life is preparation for eternity. We were made to last forever, and God wants us to be with Him in Heaven.

One day my heart is going to stop, and that will be the end of my body-- but not the end of me.

I may live 60 to 100 years on earth, but I am going to spend trillions of years in eternity. This is the warm-up act - the dress rehearsal.

God wants us to practise on earth what we will do forever in eternity. We were made by God and for God, and until you figure that out, life isn't going to make sense.

Life is a series of problems: Either you are in one now, you're just coming out of one, or you're getting ready to go into another one.

The reason for this is that God is more interested in your character than your comfort. God is more interested in making your life holy than He is in making your life happy. We can be reasonably happy here on earth, but that's not the goal of life. The goal is to grow in character, in Christ likeness. This past year has been the greatest year of my life but also the toughest, with my wife, Kay, getting cancer. I used to think that life was hills and valleys - you go through a dark time, then you go to the mountaintop, back and forth. I don't believe that anymore. Rather than life being hills and valleys, I believe that it's kind of like two rails on a railroad track, and at all times you have something good and something bad in your life. No matter how good things are in your life, there is always something bad that needs to be worked on. And no matter how bad things are in your life, there is always something good you can thank God for. You can focus on your purposes, or you can focus on your problems. If you focus on your problems, you're going into self-centeredness, "which is my problem, my issues, my pain." But one of the easiest ways to get rid of pain is to get your focus off yourself and onto God and others. We discovered quickly that in spite of the prayers of hundreds of thousands of people, God was not going to heal Kay or make it easy for her. It has been very difficult for her, and yet God has strengthened her character, given her a ministry of helping other people, given her a testimony, drawn her closer to Him and to people. You have to learn to deal with both the good and the bad of life. Actually, sometimes learning to deal with the good is harder. For instance, this past year, all of a sudden, when the book sold 15 million copies, it made me instantly very wealthy. It also brought a lot of notoriety that I had never had to deal with before. I don't think God gives you money or notoriety for your own ego or for you to live a life of ease. So I began to ask God what He wanted me to do with this money, notoriety and influence. He gave me two different passages that helped me decide what to do, II Corinthians 9 and Psalm 72.

First, in spite of all the money coming in, we would not change our lifestyle one bit. We made no major purchases.

Second, about midway through last year, I stopped taking a salary from the church.

Third, we set up foundations to fund an initiative we call The Peace Plan to plant churches, equip leaders, assist the poor, care for the sick, and educate the next generation.

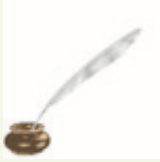
Fourth, I added up all that the church had paid me in the 24 years since I started the church, and I gave it all back. It was liberating to be able to serve God for free.

We need to ask ourselves: Am I going to live for possessions? Popularity? Am I going to be driven by pressures? Guilt? Bitterness? Materialism? Or am I going to be driven by God's purposes (for my life)? When I get up in the morning, I sit on the side of my bed and say, God, if I don't get anything else done today, I want to know You more and love You better .God didn't put me on earth just to fulfill a to-do list. He's more interested in what I am than what I do. That's why we're called human beings, not human doings.

ICA VBS 2009 JULY 20 - 24 MONDAY - FRIDAY

TIME: 6:00 PM @ ICA

Editorial



We live in a free country where we can enjoy the freedom of speech, freedom to move around as we wish, free to engage in any activity within the boundaries of the law, and above all, the freedom to practice any religion and to worship God. We probably do not think much about the liberty we have since we have been enjoying this all our lives. We may not understand the real value of freedom and liberty since we do not have any experience otherwise.

The freedom we enjoy did not happen without cost. It has great value—great price had been paid for it. The early settlers of this country and the forefathers lay down their wealth and lives for this great experience. Thousands of men and women since then fought in the battlefields and gave up their lives to sustain the freedom of this great nation. As we celebrate the independence of the country let us not forget the great price paid for the freedom we freely enjoy today.

So is the case with our spiritual life. I think we have become so accustomed to the routines of the spiritual life that we have forgotten the value of the price that was paid for our freedom. We were liberated from sin and Satan with a huge ransom. The salvation is free but not cheap. Our spiritual background and experience should not blind us to the fact that we were once slaves to sin from where no one could free us but Jesus the son of God, dying on the cross, satisfying God's just requirements and paying Satan's ransom demand.

We should remember we are liberated from the slavery of sin to be the slave of Jesus Christ. Our lives should be committed to the cause of Christ. We should walk in liberty and do not let ourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. Galatians 5:1. Live as free people but do not use your freedom as a cover up for evil; live as servants of God. 1 Peter 2:16. It is my prayer that God will grant us grace to enjoy spiritual liberty, be bonded to the master, Jesus Christ, and fulfill the will of God.

P A Samuel

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A testimony from Gracemma Cherian

I had the privilege of being born to Christian parents. At my very early age my mother passed away and I was brought up in the care of my relatives. Although I was denied the love of parents, God became real to me as a loving father from my early childhood. The bible teaches us that when we lose all hopes, we have an unchanging God in heaven in whom we can put our trust. God, who takes care of the birds in the air and the beasts of the fields, cares for us as his precious children in great measure. The God of Elijah who preserved him in the wilderness also took charge of my life and led me victoriously through all the challenges and hardships of my life. He is a great God.

God uses different people and situations to minister to his children as required. He used some of my relatives to help me with my education and then also to receive a professional training to become a nurse. He also blessed me with a job, a husband and two daughters. My husband was born in an Orthodox Christian family. However God was merciful and he called my husband to be a born again child of God. Our daughters also love the Lord and are serving him in their own capacity.

In scriptures we read that God wants us all to fight our battles so that we may experience the salvation of our Lord. In various circumstances I have experienced the same and have discovered that God is there when we call on him in utter hopelessness. The birth of our first child was very complicated. The doctors were not sure if they could save the mother or the baby. They had given up hope and asked my dear ones to be ready for the worst. However, God of heaven intervened and saved our lives miraculously. She is now healthy and married.

God is my physician too. When our second daughter was two months old she had high fever and fits. We could not get her to a hospital in time. However, our pastor unexpectedly dropped in. He laid his hands on both of us and prayed. I felt a great power passing through me like an electric shock. The fever left her body instantly and she was completely healed. That day I realized that God sends his angels for the help of his children right on time. My life is full of such experiences of God's miraculous interventions. He still guides us in all the matters in our life.

The only purpose of telling the story of my life is to declare what God can do in the lives of those who trust him. The bible says "Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame" Ps. 34:5. When the enemy shuts one door the Lord opens up another. As in 1 Peter 5:7, we can always cast our burdens upon him because he cares for us. I can say with confidence along with the Psalmist that "I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging for bread" Ps. 37:25. My prayer is that when others bring sheaves before the Lord, he will help me bring

Contn. to.....Pg. 3

Contn fromPg.2 *A testimony from Gracemma Cherian*

few grains before him in eternity. With all the limitations of my language and education, I try to tell people about the freedom we have in Jesus. I recently shared the gospel with a colleague of mine who was a chain smoker. Now, she has quit smoking and testified of the decision to quit in a public prayer meeting in the hospital. I thank God for what he has done in my life and the lives of others. My prayer is that God will keep us faithful till the end. I also pray that many of you who read this will come to know Jesus deeper and more intimately.



THE MACEDONIAN CALL

Who will tell them of Jesus Christ?

There are 639 unreached, unengaged people groups with populations over 100,000: in the world.

They are located in 77 countries.

They are called Unreached because they have less than 2% evangelical believers.

They are called Unengaged because in most cases no one is trying to reach them.

One-half of these groups are in India. Most have no church congregations and no believers.

Statistics Of the original 639

95 are unengaged. No one is trying to reach them.

169 are adopted but not yet engaged with church planting.

334 are engaged with church planting.

13 are at least two percent reached.

28 are on the list because of a research error.

GA

WHERE DO I SEE THE CHURCH IN THE NEXT 10 YEARS?

Our church today is comprised of first generation immigrants and the children born here (or came here at a young age). We are at a time where the younger generation has come to age. They are well educated and well - versed in the ways of the society.

The older generation take pride in having better knowledge of the Word of God, church administration etc. They claim to have the 'tradition' and the advantage of growing up under the teachings of great men of God of yester years.

At times, it might seem that the two generations are on a collision course. As some insists on the 'traditions' and 'their ways', others seem to want to incorporate the 'modern' thoughts and ways in serving God. For any organization to survive and thrive in such a background, great adjustments are needed to find a middle ground without compromising the doctrines and teachings of Christ and the Apostles.

We are at a stage where the second generation can and are willing to step into leadership positions and use their talents and gifts. They want to demonstrate that they are responsible Christians and know the ways of God. They might clamor for a little change to the traditional patterns and norms. However, I don't think they are entirely giving up the old practices or going away from the truths of the Word or following after the fads of the modern society. Yes, to be mature Christians they need better understanding of the Word and be rooted in it. They need the power of the Holy Spirit at work in their lives and be able to discern the good and evil, the profitable and the non-profitable.

As we all agree (?) our church has great potential as our young adults take up responsibilities and prove that they can fulfill these responsibilities and be faithful in serving God. It is time for the older generation to gradually step back, bring the younger ones into leadership and ministry positions and see them flourish. They should be given proper guidance and counseling. The younger generation should take more active participation in every activity of the church, not just in some special events and special times. Then we will see that our paths will not collide, rather we will see a church growing, meeting the needs of all demographics. Then we will see the parents and the children and the grandchildren worshipping together in unity. Then we will see the gospel going out to this world through our children/grandchildren and the Kingdom of God expanding. Then we will see our church becoming a beacon in the community. Then we will see the fruits of our efforts, results of our prayers and faithfulness.

This is where I (want to) see the church in the next ten years.

P A Samuel

ICA RETREAT 2009

AUGUST 21 -23 FRIDAY – SUNDAY

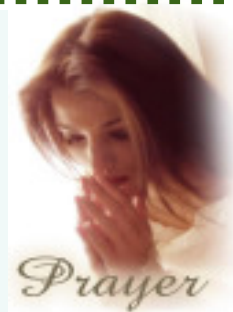
SPRUCE LAKE RETREAT CENTER, SPRUCE LAKE, PA

MEETINGS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES JULY 2009

SUNDAY, JULY 12	SUNDAY SCHOOL & WORSHIP SERVICE, COLLEGE & HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES LUNCHEON 1:30 PM @ ICA
SUNDAY, JULY 12	IPC EASTERN REGION WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP IPA, HICKSVILLE @ 6:30 PM
MONDAY – FRIDAY (JULY 13-15)	PYPA VBS 10:00 AM @ IPA, HICKSVILLE
WEDNESDAY, JULY 15	PRAYER MEETING 7:30 PM @ ICA
FRIDAY, JULY 17	FASTING & PRAYER MEETING 10:00 AM @ ICA
SATURDAY, JULY 18	PYFA SPORTS DAY II COMBINED PRAYER MEETING 7:30 PM @ ICA
SUNDAY, JULY 19	SUNDAY SCHOOL & WORSHIP SERVICE ICA VBS 09 6:00 PM @ ICA
MONDAY – FRIDAY (JULY 20 – 24)	PRAISE & WORSHIP 7:30 PM @ ICA
SATURDAY, JULY 25	SUNDAY SCHOOL & WORSHIP SERVICE
SUNDAY, JULY 26	PRAYER MEETING 7:30 PM @ ICA
WEDNESDAY, JULY 29	

Prayer Requests

- † Pastor. M. I. Thomas
- † Varghese Thannickal
- † Ammini George
- † P.P. John
- † Sam (Susan Mathew's son)
- † Susan Mathew
- † Susan John
- † Jimmy – who is suffering from cancer
- † Jerry (Ponnoilil Leelamma's nephew)
- † Raju (Sharjah)
- † Andrew (Ancel's brother)
- † Sally Jacob's brother in India
- † Iype Valloor
- † Aleyamma Valloor
- † Stanley Johnson
- † Roy Alexander
- † Sunny Varghese (Cousin of Omana & Rani)



PYPA VBS @ IPA, Hicksville
July 13 – 15 (Monday – Wednesday)
@ 10:00 am

Congratulations



**RACHEL
&
BENJAMIN**



Congratulation to ALL GRADUATES



Podiyan Johnykutty:
222-66 Braddock Ave
Queens Village, NY 11428
516-491-2926

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

JULY 09



Rebekah Philip	07/05
SinyThomas	07/06
Elijah Philip	07/06
Shawn Thomas	07/08
SheenaMathew	07/09
Stephanie Koshy	07/16
ShebaJohn	07/22
SheenaSamu	07/23
AquiilasMathew	07/23
Asha Samuel	07/26

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