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WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY "Our Land. Our Future."

This year, World Environment Day was celebrated on June 5th at Gasa English Medium School with the theme "Our Land, Our Future." A variety of events and activities were organized to mark the occasion, including a drawing competition, slogan writing, extemporaneous speeches, essay writing, and tree planting.

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FOLLOWING IN HIS FOOTSTEPS The Leadership Legacy of Jesus

Leadership is a journey where individuals guide and inspire a team in different areas such as community, religious, political, or campaigning groups. It involves creating a vision, motivating others to achieve it, and coaching teams to be more effective.

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MEGHALAYAS NATURAL TREASURES The Magnificent Limestone Caves

These underground wonders are not only visually stunning but also hold immense geological and historical significance. Formed over millions of years through the erosion of limestone rocks by water, these caves boast impressive stalactites, stalagmites, and other unique formations that leave visitors in awe.

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The Lord Cares

Finding Comfort in His Care

Some of the most common questions I get when I counsel millennials and beyond are: If the Lord cares, why is evil in the world? If God exists and created everything, doesn't he also have a hand in the evil that exists in this world? Why can't he exercise his supreme power and make the bad things disappear? For example, how can one explain the thousands dying of starvation and millions of children getting abused? For some, the questions are more personal – if the Lord cares, why did my loved one pass away? Why did this thing or that thing happen in my life? If the Lord cares, why didn't I feel his love when I needed him the most? If you have similar questions, I pray that the Lord will open your eyes and set you free.

The book of Job is a contradiction in the Bible for shallow readers. Though historically Job was the book first written in the Bible, its chronological position is strategically placed in the middle of the Old Testament. It describes one of the last events recorded before the narrative of the Bible takes a turn to praise and prophecy. Until then, every book in the Bible follows a predictable pattern, i.e., a set reaction from God in response to an action by man. Moses's farewell address to the Israelites sums it up (Deut 30:15-20) – "if you obey the commandments of the Lord, love him and walk in his ways then you shall live and multiply, but if your heart turns away, you shall surely perish." Until then, the response from God was predictable, but what happened to Job looks completely random. To dial up the contrast, the Holy Spirit records that Job was blameless and upright and a "perfect" man, an adjective reserved only for God. The unimaginable suffering that Job went through was not because of any of the reasons that Moses charged the Israelites with. God initiated it, God permitted it, and one can't but think – God used Job as a "lab rat" to prove a point to Satan!

Satan unleashed his fury on Job. In a single day, Job lost everything, both kin and kingdom. His friends, exposed only to the generational doctrines that existed until then, gave Job the final blow, accusing him of wrongdoing. In their minds, God's infuriating response to Job's seemingly unforgivable sin was the only logical explanation. They even made up stories and visions apparently from God. The Lord wasn't happy with Job's friends. Throwing stones into the river while standing on the bank on stable ground is easy. A true friend will jump in with the drowning. Are we quick to judge others when they go through a tough time? Are we experts at making theories for why others suffer? Let's pray that the Holy Spirit will enable us to discern things according to God's will and purpose.

God didn't answer Job's questions or complaints; instead, he described his creation. He talked about laying the foundation of the earth, about dawn and seasons, chains of the Pleiades and cords of Orion, the bear, the lion, and even the wild donkey and the leviathan.



Job understood quickly what God was trying to say – **there is nothing random about what God does!** Job understood that God carefully orchestrated every event in his life. Job understood another truth - **the earth is God's masterpiece, and man trampled on it.** Job could feel the excitement in God's voice when he explained his creation, which he entrusted to man. But man broke it and then accused God of the evil he did (Job 40:8). The moment man sinned, God started his work to restore the earth, and the price God paid was his son's life. There is nothing more God could do. When Job understood God's heart, he stopped talking, all his complaints were gone, and he repented. He submitted wholly to God, and God forgave and blessed him.

It is man's fault that there is evil in this world, and we cannot blame God for it. Because man broke God's perfect creation, God had to pay the ultimate price, and God is at work to restore his creation until the set time. And while he is at it, he doesn't promise that there will be no suffering, but he does promise that he will be with us through it all. Whatever our situation, let us accept Paul's challenge (Romans 8:32) – the one who did not spare his own son but delivered him for us all, how shall he not freely give us everything we ask for? I pray the Lord will open our eyes to see his hands in the details of our life. The Lord cares and lets us believe he is for us, not against us.

Dr. Giby Raphael
Associate Pastor,
Faithcity Church, Kochi
& CEO, Remote X Corporation, USA



**"Focus on giants - you stumble.
Focus on God - Giants tumble."**

Pr. Max Lucado

Pastor, speaker, and best-selling author who, in his own words, "writes books for people who don't read books."

June 5 "OUR LAND. OUR FUTURE." WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY



World Environment Day is a significant event celebrated on 5th June, globally. A day dedicated to appreciating and protecting and to raise awareness to encourage participation in protecting our planet Earth. This year's theme, "Our Land Our Future," focused on land restoration, desertification, and drought resilience, aligning with the crucial need for sustainable development and environmental conservation.

This year Gasa English Medium School grandly celebrated environment day on 5th June. The slogan, "Our Land, Our Future: We are Generation Restoration," resonated deeply with our celebration, inspiring a range of activities designed to engage young minds and cultivate a sense of responsibility towards the environment.

Our day began with the symbolic act of planting trees. Students, teachers, and staff came together and planted a variety of saplings, each a small promise for greener future. The spirit of environmental stewardship extended beyond the planting grounds and into our classrooms.

Students participated in a variety of creative competitions, like slogan, essay writing and model presentation, etc. Channeling their thoughts and emotions into powerful messages of conservation; providing them a platform for deeper reflections on the theme and to showcase the depth of their understanding and commitment. However, our celebration was more than just a symbolic gesture. It was a conscious effort to instill in our students the understanding that they are the bridge to the future. Each activity, from planting saplings to expressing their hopes for a greener tomorrow, served as a reminder that the power to restore our planet lies in their hands.

Thanks to the Inspiring presence of our Chief Guest, Sir. Ricky D Shira, former District Education Officer (DESO, East Garo Hill). His involvement extended beyond planting tree. He took time to observe and engaged with student in various competitions. His words, both powerful and motivating, emphasized the importance of environmental stewardship and the vital role young people play in shaping a sustainable future. His encouraging words and insightful observations during competition motivated the students, further igniting their desire to make a difference.

As we concluded our World Environment Day celebrations, there was a palpable sense of accomplishment and hope. The day wasn't merely about celebrating the environment; it was about igniting a passion for its preservation in the hearts of our students. We are confident that these young advocates will carry the lessons learned and the enthusiasm fostered on this day forward, becoming the generation that truly makes a difference in restoring our planet for a brighter and more sustainable future.



Ms. Tracie N Marak
Principal
Gasa English Medium School
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On World Environment Day, let us commit to nurturing nature in order to promote the growth of our forests, the purification of our air, and the flourishing of life in our oceans.

5 Five Biblical principles in money management

The Bible offers valuable guidance on money management, with 2,350 verses dedicated to the topic of money and stewardship. If you are feeling lost, overwhelmed, or unsure about your financial management, these five biblical principles on money will prove to be invaluable.

1 Smart Money Management

"Whoever gathers money little by little makes it grow." **Proverbs 13:11 (NIV)**

To effectively manage money according to biblical principles, it is important to earn more than you spend and prioritize saving. Many struggle to live within their means due to overspending on lifestyle expenses, leading to debt accumulation. To learn how to budget effectively, check out the Christians Guide to Budgeting for valuable insights.

2 Debt-Free Living

"The rich rules over the poor and the borrower becomes the lender's slave." **Proverbs 22:7**

The Bible cautions against borrowing and becoming a slave to lenders, but many people still borrow without considering the negative effects. Borrowing can lead to economic risks like high interest and limited future quality of life, as well as causing worry, anxiety, and strain on relationships. Spiritually, borrowing may prevent opportunities for divine assistance. It is crucial to think about all consequences before making financial decisions to avoid the economic, psychological, and spiritual dangers of debt.

3 Grow Your Wealth

"The wise store up choice food and olive oil, but the fools gulp theirs down." **Proverbs 21:20**

To achieve long-term goals, saving is key. Start by paying off high-interest debt, then build an emergency fund, save for major purchases, invest in mutual funds, and consider taking calculated risks like starting a business. Following this structured approach can help reach financial aspirations while minimizing unnecessary risks.

4 Setting Goals for a Purposeful Life

The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty." **Proverbs 21:5**

Having clear financial goals is important for recognizing God's presence in our financial lives. Goals provide direction, purpose, focus, and motivation.

5 The Power of Giving

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." **Luke 6:38**

Following Biblical principles in managing one's life can lead to contentment, confidence in financial decisions, strong communication skills, and increased generosity with time, talents, and resources, regardless of economic circumstances.



John Alex
Director
P R. Baby Foundation



FOLLOWING IN HIS FOOTSTEPS

The Leadership Legacy of Jesus

Leadership is a journey where individuals guide and inspire a team in different areas such as community, religious, political, or campaigning groups. It involves creating a vision, motivating others to achieve it, and coaching teams to be more effective. Great leaders like MK Gandhi and Nelson Mandela are examples of transformative leadership that inspires others and leaves a lasting impact on the world.

Transformational leaders develop and communicate a vision for the future, motivate others to work towards that vision, oversee its implementation, and support their team in achieving the vision. They focus on empowering and developing their team members to enhance their effectiveness.

"Leadership is the art of getting someone else to do something you want done because he wants to do it".

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER



HOW DID JESUS LEAD?

He bore much responsibility.

Jesus had an important leadership role that came with a lot of responsibility. His disciples sometimes didn't fully grasp the seriousness of his mission, even falling asleep when he needed them most. Leadership can be tough and isolating, but having supportive people around us can help lighten the load and provide comfort during difficult times.

He needed time to pray and fellowship with the Father.

"He needed time to pray and fellowship with the Father. No comment! Well, allow me just one: If Jesus, the Son of Man, needed to spend many hours in prayer talking to the Father, how much more do we? In modern terms, he balanced being alone with God and ministry to people."

He invested in a few disciples.

Jesus focused on training a group of 12 men to be leaders by teaching them deeply and showing them how to apply his teachings in their lives. Despite their small number, Jesus believed in the power of quality over quantity and showed that a dedicated and committed few can have a significant impact through the power of multiplication.

He delegated.

Jesus chose imperfect disciples to do his work, believing that weak individuals can showcase God's power. We should let go of control and focus on spreading the message of the gospel, not on ourselves.

He met physical as well as spiritual needs.

Jesus was a hands-on leader who engaged with people to address their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. He prioritized what was important while also dealing with urgent matters.



He knew how to party.

Jesus enjoyed being part of joyous gatherings where people celebrated together. He showed happiness and excitement in his own life and enjoyed socializing with others, even sinners, at events like weddings and dinner parties.

He knew how to receive the service of others.

Jesus demonstrated servant leadership by accepting acts of service from others, such as having his feet washed, being served food, and receiving gestures of humility. This challenges us to consider if we are willing to accept help and allow others to serve us.

He was not above touching the broken.

True leadership involves following God's intentions with humility and courage, even if it means challenging societal norms. Leaders should remove barriers that hinder God's work, regardless of existing structures or traditions. In God's eyes, everyone is equal and we should align our actions with His divine will.

He spoke truth.

Jesus demonstrated fearless leadership by boldly speaking the truth, confronting wrongdoing, and rebuking sin and hypocrisy. He believed in defending God's honor even if it meant causing controversy. This aspect of leadership is crucial, despite its potential to disrupt peace.

He knew how to apply God's Word to every human heart.

Jesus approached each person individually, tailoring his teachings to their specific situation. True wisdom involves understanding how God's word can be applied uniquely to each person's heart. It is important for us to deepen our knowledge of God's Word and theology, and actively help others apply it to their diverse circumstances.

He made people hungry and thirsty for more of God.

Jesus's leadership left a lasting impact on people, causing them to desire more. He taught that our words should be like salt, making others yearn for a closer relationship with God. Effective leadership might be uncomfortable, as salt can sting wounds and our words may be rejected by some.

He lived on a mission.

Jesus had a clear mission to fulfill God's plan of redemption for the world, which guided all of his actions. While this level of focus may seem repetitive, it is important for leaders to consider what God is calling them to do in the present moment.

He did not defend himself.

Jesus showed leadership through his silence, staying calm and confident even in the face of criticism and shame. Many find it difficult to balance strength and vulnerability like he did. Can we let go of the need to defend ourselves for the greater good of spreading Christ's message? It's a challenging question that may make us think about what truly matters to us.

He understood his suffering as part of God's plan.

Jesus demonstrated an eternal perspective by willingly enduring suffering for the greater good. By trusting in God's plan and ultimate exaltation, he found satisfaction in his suffering. We can have faith that our own difficulties, endured for Christ, will bear fruit in the end. Strong leaders should embody this belief and lead others towards the hope that comes from trusting in God's plan.

He forgave others even though they were unwilling to repent.

Jesus showed forgiveness through his servant leadership, forgiving his assassins while on the cross. Leaders will face unjust opposition and criticism, similar to being crucified. It takes grace and strength, like Jesus, to forgive in challenging times. We may not be perfect like Jesus, but we can strive to repent for our mistakes and forgive others, even if they do not ask for it. True leadership is about humility, grace, and forgiveness in the face of adversity.

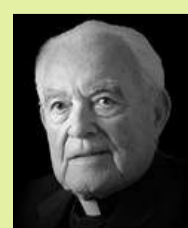
He knew how to apply God's Word to every human heart.

Jesus personalized his teachings and challenges to each person based on their unique situations. True wisdom involves understanding how God's word can be applied individually. We need to deepen our knowledge of God's Word and theology to help others apply it to their diverse circumstances.

Dr. P J George

Former Director,
Sam Higginbottom
University of Agriculture,
Technology and Sciences

PRAYAGRAJ,
UTTAR PRADESH.



"The very essence of leadership is that you have to have vision. You can't blow an uncertain trumpet."

REV. THEODORE M. HESBURGH

MEGHALAYAS NATURAL TREASURES

The Magnificent Limestone Caves



These underground wonders are not only visually stunning but also hold immense geological and historical significance. Formed over millions of years through the erosion of limestone rocks by water, these caves boast impressive stalactites, stalagmites, and other unique formations that leave visitors in awe. The intricate network of chambers and passageways within these caves offers a sense of mystery and adventure to those brave enough to explore them. In addition to their natural beauty, the limestone caves have served as a shelter for ancient civilizations and even house rare species of flora and fauna found nowhere else on Earth. So, if you're up for an unforgettable journey through time and nature, the limestone caves of Meghalaya are worth a visit! The Caves of Meghalaya are a vast network of caves located in the Jaintia, Khasi Hills, and Garo Hills districts in the Indian state of Meghalaya. These caves are known to be some of the longest in the world. In fact, out of the ten longest and deepest caves in India, the first nine are located in Meghalaya, with the tenth being in Mizoram. The longest cave in Meghalaya is Krem Liat Prah in the Jaintia Hills, measuring an impressive 30,957 meters in length. The word "Krem" translates to cave in the local Khasi language. Exploration of the Caves of Meghalaya serves both scientific and recreational purposes, with many caves still remaining unexplored or only partially explored.

Exploration of the Caves of Meghalaya serves both scientific and recreational purposes, with many caves still remaining unexplored or only partially explored. The Meghalaya Adventurers Association (MAA) organizes annual caving expeditions known as the Caving in the Abode of the Clouds Project. However, the limestone mining industry poses a threat to these caves as they are primarily located in limestone formations. Efforts are being made to protect and preserve these natural wonders for future generations to enjoy.



Pr. Hardingson A Sangma
South Garo Hills, Meghalaya

Bright with Latest Achievement

GASA ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOL SHINES

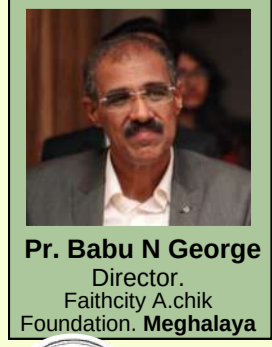
Once again, Gasa English Medium School in Chiading, East Garo Hills, Meghalaya has achieved top honors in the State Level Science Exhibition held in 2024 **Sildoang N Sangma**, a student of Gasa English Medium School, secured 3rd place for his project submitted under the theme "Science and Technology for Society," with the sub-theme "Lifestyle for Environment." The project titled "Cultural Wisdom and Modern Innovations: Pathways to a Zero Waste Lifestyle" aims to showcase how traditional cultural practices, when combined with modern innovations in upcycling and waste reduction, can pave the way for a sustainable zero waste lifestyle. It highlights the importance of reducing, reusing and recycling in everyday life, focusing on cultural habits that minimize plastic use and innovative ways to upcycle plastic waste.



Building Tomorrow Strategies for Shaping the Future



A short-term pastoral training program was held at Elim Theological Institute, Church of God (FC) Central Eastern region, Kolkata from 10/06/2024 to 19/06/2024. The program was inaugurated by Pr. Benny John, Regional Overseer of Church of God (FC) in India, Central Eastern region. The training covered a range of subjects essential for ministry, led by experienced theologians. The main goal of the training was to equip mission workers with the necessary skills and knowledge to carry out effective ministry in their respective areas of service, enabling them



Pr. Babu N George
Director,
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Foundation, Meghalaya

to work independently and in alignment with the organization's vision. All of the mission workers from Faithcity A.chik Foundation attended the meeting, which proved to be a blessing as it helped to enhance their skills for mission work in Meghalaya.



The inaugural meeting of Kings Caravan North East took place on June 15th at the main gate of the North Eastern Regional Institute of Science and Technology (NERIST) in Itanagar. The event was held in the bustling market of Nirjuli, drawing a large crowd of onlookers. Attendees were treated to Christian rap performances by a former drug addict, as well as powerful testimonies from two teenagers who had overcome their struggles with addiction.

A skit was also performed, highlighting the transformative power of Christ's love and the freedom from drugs and other vices. The worship session was a hit with the audience, who were engaged and moved by the program. The event was organized by the youth of Revival Blessing International Ministries (RBIM) Church, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh who did an outstanding job in delivering a powerful and impactful message.



Shalvin James
Director,
Faithcity A.chik Foundation
Arunachal Pradesh