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### MASTERING THE ART OF LEADERSHIP

#### The Leadership Example of Jesus Christ

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### NARTIANG MONOLITHS

#### Exploring the Spectacular Remnants of bygone Eras

The Nartiang Monoliths, situated in the northeastern state of Meghalaya in India, are a captivating array of ancient megalithic stones that stand as impressive remnants of a bygone era.

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### VILLAGE KNOWLEDGE CENTRE

#### Transforming Rural Living

dedicated to improving the quality of life in rural communities through various sustainable development initiatives. With a focus on empowering local residents and fostering self-reliance, the Centre provides training programs in agriculture, health, education, & spiritual enlighten programs

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Many of us have tasted the Lord's faithfulness in fulfilling his promises. The Bible makes one thing certain: Man will forget, but our Lord will never forget his promises to his children. 470 years after the Israelites left Egypt, Solomon confessed during the dedication of the temple – "Not one word has failed of all the good promises the Lord gave through his servant Moses" (1 Kings 8:56). The Journey of Israelites through the desert from Egypt to the promised land is a precursor for our spiritual journey as we walk towards our heavenly abode. In the book of Joshua, the Israelites finally arrived at the promised land after a rebellious journey through the desert. One should note that arriving at the promise is not the same as receiving the promise. The Israelites arrived at the promise but still had to fight for every inch to possess their blessing. The devil has claims to our earthly blessings; he cannot deny them but can delay them. Hence, as Jesus did, we should fight for our promises through persistent prayer and fasting.

As the Israelites were getting ready to fight in the book of Joshua, the Lord used the first, the battle of Jericho, to warn them of seven pitfalls (Joshua 6). The battle of Jericho was not to occupy but was training to receive their promise. These seven pointers are as relevant to us now as they were to the Israelites then:

#### NOT LEADING WITH PRAYER AND PRAISE

Often, when faced with a shut door or a wall like Jericho's, which we read was securely shut against the Israelites, our instinct is to index on "action," to use our worldly strength, intellect, and connections to scale the wall. The Lord wants us to put our energy and time into prayer and praise first so that he can help us by demolishing the wall. Let the Lord handle the obstacle for us so that we don't waste our energy on it.

#### NOT BEING DISCIPLINED

The Lord gave specific instructions on how and when to march. He didn't want the Israelites to cram everything into the night before the battle but to be disciplined and do the portion allotted for each day. Joshua followed those instructions meticulously and did not advertise or give the war cry prematurely but waited on the Lord's timing.

#### NOT BALANCING PRAYER WITH WORK

On the other extreme, some people spend all their time praying and, in the process, forget to prepare or perform the job. Once the wall falls, they are clueless about what to do next. The Lord wants us to practice with our sword and spear so that we can loot the land after the obstacle falls.

#### NOT SEEKING THE LORD'S WILL

In our enthusiasm to receive and enjoy our blessings, some kill "Rahab," through whom came Jesus Christ. Rahab is the Lord's long-term plan for our salvation. We must continue to seek the Lord's guidance and seek his will to sustain our blessing, especially in critical decision-making junctures.

#### NOT KEEPING AWAY FROM DEVOTED THINGS

As we enjoy our blessings, we must avoid things that make us unholy (e.g., cheating on the job, accepting bribes, etc.)

#### NOT BRINGING BACK THE TREASURES TO THE LORD

Some of us are experts at "bait and switch," i.e., getting close to the Lord to receive the blessing but forgetting the Lord after receiving it.

#### NOT GIVING ONE'S BEST

The seventh day was the most tiring of all other days as the Israelites marched across the city seven times. Counterintuitively, that was the same day the Lord asked them to fight. Despite their tiredness, they gave it all and did not leave the work half-done. Once we receive our blessing, we are bound to give it our best to upkeep the blessing.

**The Lord forewarned the Israelites to avoid the seven pitfalls as they advanced to occupy the entire land. As Paul says in the book of Hebrews – since such a great cloud of witnesses surrounds us, let us throw away everything that hinders and the sin that entangles and run our race with perseverance. What are our blind spots as we look forward to receiving our blessings? I pray that the Lord will give us the grace to overcome these pitfalls so that we can be in his perfect will, whether we are waiting, receiving, or enjoying his blessings. I pray that the Lord will accelerate the fulfillment of his promises for you.**

**Dr. Giby Raphael**

Associate Pastor,  
Faithcity Church, Kochi  
& CEO, Remote X Corporation, USA



# 15 Characteristics of Successful Leaders



## THE LEADERSHIP EXAMPLE OF JESUS CHRIST

progress. Encourage team accountability and focus on achieving goals as a team. Jesus is seen as a great leader who delegated tasks based on team members' strengths, fostering skill development and empowerment. Micromanagers, on the other hand, stifle creativity and hinder professional growth by dictating every step.

### TALENT MANAGEMENT

Jesus recognized Peter's potential as a fisherman who could lead others, inspire teams, and bring out the best in people. It is important to identify areas where additional training and education can be utilized to enhance the skills of team members. By providing the necessary empowerment, we can ensure that people have the tools they need to succeed.

### QUICK CHANGES

Jesus demonstrates exceptional adaptability by quickly adjusting to changes, engaging in discussions and debates with team members, and effectively communicating these changes to the entire team. He also skillfully avoids potential troublemakers and efficiently feeds a crowd of 5000 when they were hungry. His visionary leadership inspires the entire team to support and implement necessary changes.

### FORWARD THINKING

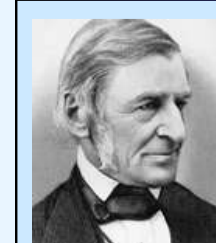
Leaders must not only adapt to changes but also initiate change themselves. Jesus demonstrated this by anticipating trends, applying them to the situation, and staying ahead of the curve. He preached and practiced these principles, serving as the ultimate example of leadership. Jesus showed that true leadership involves serving others, often requiring self-sacrifice and humility rather than exerting authority. Greatness, according to Jesus, is achieved through serving others and putting their needs before one's own.

### RESILIENCE, PERSEVERANCE AND MOTIVATION

In difficult times, leaders must stay positive and inspire their teams. Jesus is an example of perseverance in the face of suffering and rejection. He showed resilience and endurance in completing his life's mission, and serves as a source of hope and inspiration for leaders aiming to lead with determination.

### Dr. P J George

Former Director,  
Sam Higginbottom  
University of Agriculture,  
Technology and Sciences  
PRAYAGRAJ,  
UTTAR PRADESH.



"Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."

**Ralph Waldo Emerson**

Leadership is a journey where individuals inspire and lead teams in different sectors like community, religious, political, and advocacy groups. It involves creating a clear vision, motivating team members to excel, and offering guidance to improve team performance.

### ETHICAL BEHAVIOUR

Leadership is essential in establishing ethical standards and culture. Jesus demonstrated inclusive care by assisting the sick, disabled, and oppressed, instilling hope and courage among his followers. His compassion and sense of justice were evident even as he was crucified. In Matthew 14:14, Jesus healed the sick with genuine compassion, prioritizing others' needs over his own.

### A LEADER IS THERE TO SERVE

A successful leader understands that they should serve their team rather than expecting to be served. Jesus also preached the importance of serving others, as seen in Mark 10:45 where he stated that he came to serve and give his life for others. Jesus believed in servant leadership and demonstrated it through his actions.

### A VISION OF COMMITMENT

Leadership involves creating a powerful vision that inspires people to work towards important goals. Jesus showed this by always following his Father's will. His mission was to bring freedom to the captives, help the blind see, free the oppressed, and share God's favor. This can be seen as Jesus' mission statement.

### FROM THE TOP TO THE BOTTOM

Leaders must assess the gap between goals and actual performance, motivate their team to feel valued and successful, and share a clear vision for success. The tearing of the curtain symbolizes Jesus as the pathway to God's presence, passed on through disciples and emphasized in 2 Timothy 2.

### EXCELLENT COMMUNICATION

Effective leaders need clear and synchronized communication skills to ensure messages are delivered and received accurately. Communication should be assertive, honest, humble, transparent, and direct, resonating with all individuals. Jesus in the Bible exemplified effective communication by tailoring his message to connect with people on a deeper level, bringing delight to large crowds.

### ABILITY TO LISTEN AND DEBATE

James emphasizes the importance of listening, being slow to speak and slow

to anger in debates. Jesus is seen as a skilled debater who exemplified qualities of being perceptive, courageous, articulate, and patient. By embodying these qualities, one can engage in meaningful debates while respecting different viewpoints.

### TEAMWORK

Establishing trust and respect within a team is important for teamwork. A leader should be able to identify and resolve key issues. Just as Jesus picked certain individuals to be part of his team, he had a smaller, more intimate team within the larger group, including Peter, James, and John. They were chosen for specific events with Jesus and later held important leadership roles in the early church.

### DELEGATION

In order to be a successful leader, it is important to have confidence in delegating tasks to your team and empowering them to take charge. Jesus Christ demonstrated this concept during His mortal ministry by empowering his disciples to perform miraculous tasks and spreading the message of the Kingdom of God. This act of delegation and empowerment is further illustrated in the Bible when God advised Moses to share his burdens with others. Effective leadership involves delegating tasks, empowering others, and sharing responsibilities to achieve success.

### MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP

As leadership skills develop, the need for micromanaging decreases as individuals become self-motivated towards a common vision. True leadership focuses on vision and empowerment, not on operational procedures or metrics. Jesus outlined His mission to preach good news, help the oppressed, and proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. He spoke about the Holy Spirit teaching and reminding His disciples of His teachings. Jesus promised His disciples power when the Holy Spirit came upon them to be witnesses in various regions.

### MANAGEMENT SKILLS

Executives need to be both visionary leaders and strategic managers. This involves setting clear goals, delegating tasks, and ensuring everything is done correctly. Jesus exemplified this through his servant leadership and hands-on approach, practicing what he preached through parables.

### MICROMANAGER TO MENTOR

Allow team members to work independently while still overseeing their

# NARTIANG MONOLITHS Exploring the Spectacular Remnants of bygone Eras



The Nartiang Monoliths, situated in the northeastern state of Meghalaya in India, are a captivating array of ancient megalithic stones that stand as impressive remnants of a bygone era. Dating back to the 1500s, these monoliths are believed to have been erected by the indigenous Khasi tribe as memorials for their ancestors and heroes. The tallest monolith reaches a towering height of 8 meters, adorned with intricate carvings and designs that offer a glimpse into the cultural and social customs of the Khasi people. Visitors can meander through these majestic stones, envisioning the ceremonies and rituals that once took place in their shadow. The Nartiang Monoliths provide a unique window into Meghalaya's rich history, showcasing the craftsmanship and artistry of its past inhabitants. This mesmerizing sight boasts arguably the largest collection of monoliths in one location, brimming with historical and cultural significance. The standing monoliths, or menhirs, pay tribute to male ancestors, while the flat ones, known as dolmens, honor women.

As visitors pass by, they may hear echoes of a bustling marketplace, a result of the stone being deemed sacred and the surrounding forest cleared for a bazaar. Additional monoliths were brought in to enhance the area's beauty, culminating in the impressive collection seen today. Local folklore underscores the enduring importance of these ancient monoliths to the community. Intrigued, I delved into research on both the Jaintia people and the stones. The Jaintiapur kingdom, a matrilineal society stretching from the province of Sylhet in present-day Bangladesh to the hills of Meghalaya, is steeped in legend. Tales speak of exceptionally tall and strong people, though no official evidence supports this claim. Nartiang, with its cool climate and strategic hilltop location, served as the summer capital of the Jaintiapur kingdom.

**Pr. Hardingson A Sangma**  
South Garo Hills, Meghalaya



## *Building the Foundation*

### How Infrastructure Enhances Education

In Meghalaya, the development of school infrastructure is a vital endeavor to guarantee that every student has access to high-quality education. The rugged terrain and remote locations in the state pose challenges for building schools, but efforts are underway to overcome these obstacles. The government is actively investing in the construction of new schools, the enhancement of existing ones, and the provision of essential resources such as books and furniture.

PCEF (Pentecostal Children's Education Fund) in partnership with GEMS (Gasa English Medium School) management team is spearheading the development of school infrastructure, including the construction of permanent classrooms, a kindergarten complex, smart classrooms, internet facilities, a library, laboratory facilities, a children's play area, transportation services, drinking water, and restroom facilities. Initially, repair work on existing buildings has commenced, with new construction scheduled to begin by August 2024.

By enhancing school infrastructure, students can learn in a safe and conducive environment, teachers can effectively impart knowledge, and communities can benefit from educated individuals who contribute to society. This investment is not just about constructing buildings; it is about investing in the future generation of Meghalaya and ensuring that every child has the opportunity to receive a meaningful education.



[www.gemsmeghalaya.com](http://www.gemsmeghalaya.com)

**Sunny Thomas**  
Director  
Pentecostal Children's  
Education Fund



# VILLAGE KNOWLEDGE CENTRE

## Transforming Rural Living

The Village Knowledge Centre is committed to enhancing the quality of life in rural communities through sustainable development initiatives. By empowering local residents and promoting self-reliance, the center offers a platform for community members to come together and address issues related to the sustainable development of their village. Through training programs in agriculture, health, education, and women's empowerment, the center aims to provide tailored solutions to meet the specific needs and challenges of each village. Through collaborations with local governments, NGOs, and international organizations, the Village Development Centre can pool resources and expertise to achieve maximum impact. The ultimate objective is to establish thriving and resilient villages where residents can lead healthy, productive lives without having to migrate to urban areas in search of better opportunities.

P R Baby Foundation, in partnership with village authorities, is planning to establish 100 Village Knowledge Centers in Northeast India to promote community development. Additionally, the foundation will launch non-formal education centers to educate children of all ages and establish study centers under the National Open School for school dropouts and those who have missed out on traditional education. These centers will also host spiritual enlightenment programs on holidays.

The holistic approach and long-term commitment of the centers make them valuable assets in fostering inclusive development in rural India. The first Village Knowledge Centre is currently under construction in Maingittim village in Moradam, South Garo Hill district of Meghalaya, with activities expected to commence by November 2024.



**John Alex**  
Director  
P R. Baby Foundation



# Confronting the Reality of Drug Abuse

## THE SUCCESS OF KINGS CARAVAN 2.0

Drug abuse in Northeast India has emerged as a pressing issue in recent years, with substances such as heroin, methamphetamine, and prescription medications being widely misused. The region's strategic geographical location makes it vulnerable to drug trafficking and smuggling activities. Factors such as poverty, unemployment, and limited educational opportunities serve as underlying causes that drive individuals towards substance abuse as a means of coping. Additionally, societal stigma surrounding mental health issues and addiction often deters individuals from seeking help.

Faithcity A.chik Foundation & PCEF Kerala, in collaboration with RBIM (Revival Blessing International Ministries) in Arunachal Pradesh, have taken the initiative to organize awareness programs on drug abuse among youths in various educational institutions and public spaces with the approval of Government Authorities. Throughout July 2024, these programs were conducted in locations such as Longding Town (a seven-hour drive from Itanagar), Khobsa Town (50 kilometers from Longding), and the Papnallah School ground in Itanagar. Despite heavy rain and unpredictable weather, a significant number of youths and local residents attended these meetings.

The sessions were led by Pr. Shajet Thomas, alongside youth leaders from RBIM ministries and Shalvin James of Faithcity A.chik Foundation. The dedicated youths of RBIM ministries are committed to reaching out to young individuals under the influence of drugs in the Northeastern states of India.

These programs typically consist of workshops, seminars, and outreach activities designed to raise awareness about the dangers associated with drug use and promote healthy lifestyles.



**Shalvin James**  
Director  
Faithcity A.chik Foundation  
Arunachal Pradesh

