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Mission Update



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The Three Steps to Reverse Decay

The first law of thermodynamics states that energy cannot be created or destroyed, only transferred or transformed. The second law teaches that in any natural process, the total entropy, or disorder, of a system tends to increase. We observe these principles in everyday life when a cup of hot coffee left unattended cools and loses its appeal, or when a machine gradually breaks down with use. In the past year alone, more than one trillion dollars has been invested in longevity research. This reflects a fundamental reality: decay over time is natural, whether in living or nonliving systems, and humanity has yet to discover a way to fully reverse it and restore something to its original state. In the remarkable account of the resurrection of Lazarus, John the Apostle presents a three step process that points toward the impossible: reversing decay through the power of resurrection.



1. Request Help from the Master

The name Lazarus is likely an abbreviated form of the Hebrew name Eleazar, which means “God assists,” while the name Bethany is often understood to mean “house of suffering”. The first step is to humbly request the Master’s help, and given the context, it would be unwise to rely solely on our own efforts. Bethany was located only about two miles from Jerusalem and within a day’s walk from where Jesus was at the time. In seeking help from the Master, it is important to recognize that humans often interpret any delay in receiving help as indifference or cruelty. This reaction stems from our aversion to pain and our tendency to expect immediate action. Waiting is inherently difficult, yet the story reveals that waiting has purpose.

During this waiting period, Jesus connected with Martha and Mary on deeply different levels. With Martha, he revealed a profound truth, declaring that he is the resurrection and the life. With Mary, he engaged on a deeply emotional level. In a moment unlike any other recorded in the Gospels, Jesus wept (John 11:35). The apostle John uses a unique term for Jesus’s tears, one that does not appear elsewhere in the New Testament, suggesting that this moment carries special significance. The word conveys an intense and deeply felt expression of sorrow. From this encounter, the relationship between Jesus and Mary was profoundly deepened. In the same way, seasons of waiting can become moments where God draws us into deeper connection and leads us to greater revelation.

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A Life Well Lived, A Legacy That Endures

Remembering
Dr. Knudsenberg CH. Momin
(1951 - 2026)



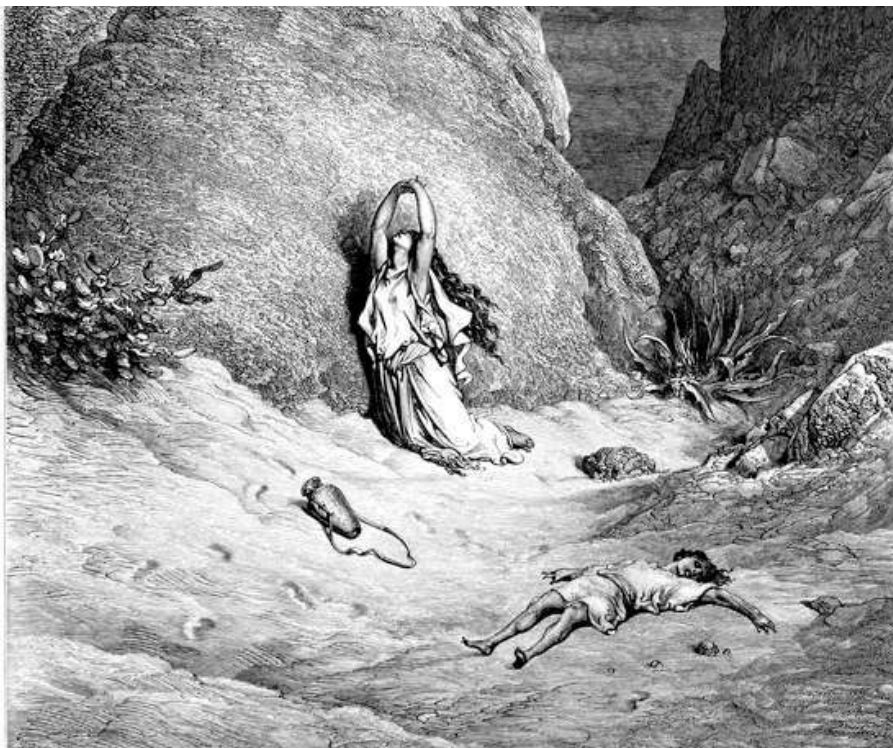
We remember with deep gratitude and honor the life and legacy of Dr. K. C. Momin, whose dedicated service to the Garo community and unwavering commitment to education have left an indelible mark. As the Director of Gasa English Medium Higher Secondary School in East Garo Hills, Meghalaya, Dr. Momin was instrumental in shaping the growth and development of the institution. His leadership was marked not only by excellence in administration but by a genuine passion to see young lives transformed through quality, value-based education.

Dr. Momin stood tall among his fellow Garos. Yet, even after reaching the pinnacle of his career as Director of Soil Conservation, Government of Meghalaya, he remained remarkably humble and approachable. His life reflected a rare blend of intellectual excellence, servant leadership, and deep spiritual conviction.

As the Word of God reminds us:
“The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance.” — Psalm 112:6

Dr. Momin’s life is a testimony to this truth - his legacy will live on.

Editorial team



Hagar

“In the Wilderness, She Discovered the God Who Sees.”

From Bondage to Divine Encounter

In the margins of the biblical narrative stands a woman whose story echoes across generations - a story of pain, rejection, survival, and divine encounter. Hagar, an Egyptian servant in the household of Sarah and Abraham, represents the voice of the marginalized and the forgotten. Her journey, recorded in the Book of Genesis, is not merely a story of suffering - it is a powerful testimony that God sees, hears, and responds to those in distress.

The Story of Hagar: From Bondage to Divine Encounter

When Sarah was unable to conceive, she gave Hagar to Abraham, resulting in the birth of Ishmael (Genesis 16:1–2). What began as a human solution soon led to deep conflict, jealousy, and emotional turmoil.

Facing harsh treatment, Hagar fled into the wilderness. It was there—alone, vulnerable, and desperate—that she encountered the angel of the Lord. In that sacred moment, she experienced God in a deeply personal way and called Him:

“*El Roi*” – *The God Who Sees Me* (Genesis 16:13)

Even after returning, conflict resurfaced when Isaac was born, and Hagar was eventually sent away with her son (Genesis 21:9–14). Yet again, in the wilderness, God intervened—providing water, protection, and a promise that Ishmael would become a great nation (Genesis 21:15–21).

A SWOT Reflection on Hagar’s Life

Strengths

Resilience and Divine Encounter

1. Remarkable Resilience

Hagar’s life is a testimony of survival against overwhelming odds. Cast out into the wilderness, she endured hardship with courage and perseverance.

Her story reminds us that **strength is often forged in seasons of suffering.**

2. A Personal Encounter with God

Hagar is one of the few individuals in Scripture who had a direct encounter with God and gave **Him a name El Roi**. This highlights the depth of her spiritual experience.

It reveals a powerful truth:

God is not distant - He is personal and attentive to our pain.

3. Significance Through Motherhood

As the mother of Ishmael, Hagar holds a significant place in history. Her son became the father of a great nation, fulfilling God’s promise.

Her role underscores that **God’s purposes extend even through those society overlooks.**

Weaknesses

Vulnerability and Conflict

1. Low Social Status

As a servant and a foreigner, Hagar lived in a position of vulnerability. She had little control over her circumstances and was subject to the decisions of others.

2. Relational Conflict

The tension between Hagar and Sarah created emotional instability and forced displacement.

This reflects **how broken relationships can intensify life’s struggles.**

Opportunities

Promise and Legacy

1. A Future Anchored in God’s Promise

Even in despair, God spoke hope into Hagar’s life—promising that Ishmael would

become a great nation.

This encounter transformed her wilderness into a place of divine purpose and assurance.

2. A Legacy for the Marginalized

Hagar’s story stands as a voice for the oppressed, the displaced, and the unseen.

Her life declares that **no one is invisible in the eyes of God.**

Threats

Rejection and Survival

1. The Pain of Abandonment

Being sent away into the wilderness with her child was one of the most painful experiences Hagar endured.

Her story reflects the harsh reality of **rejection and displacement.**

2. The Harshness of the Wilderness

The wilderness symbolized danger—lack of water, food, and safety.

At one point, Hagar feared the death of her son, highlighting the extreme vulnerability of her situation.

The Importance of Hagar’s Life

Hagar’s life carries profound spiritual and social significance:

- She reveals God’s heart for the marginalized and oppressed
- She demonstrates that divine encounters are not limited by status or position
- She stands as a reminder that God sees, hears, and responds to human suffering
- She bridges biblical history with ongoing human experiences of displacement, injustice, and survival

In a world where many feel unseen and unheard, Hagar’s story boldly proclaims:

“You are seen by God.”

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Technology and Sciences &
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Hagar

Lessons for Today

Hagar's journey speaks powerfully into our present reality:

- God meets us in our **lowest and loneliest moments**
- Rejection does not cancel **divine purpose**
- Even in wilderness seasons, **God provides and guides**
- Our pain can become a platform for **encountering God deeply**



Conclusion

The story of Hagar is not just a narrative of suffering—it is a testimony of divine compassion and unwavering provision.

Though cast aside by people, she was never abandoned by God.

Her journey from despair to hope reminds us that:

Where human strength ends, God's care begins.

For every person walking through a wilderness season, Hagar's life offers this enduring assurance:

God sees you. God hears you. God will provide.

Prof. (Dr.) P J George

The Three Steps to Reverse Decay



2. Remove the Stone

Then Jesus gave the command, "Take away the stone" (John 11:39). In first century Palestine, bodies decomposed quickly because they were not preserved through embalming as in Egyptian practices. Spices were used primarily to mask the odor of decay. Every human sense pointed to the impossibility of the situation. It was not only visible but also perceptible through smell and sound. To make matters more difficult, according to Jewish tradition, it was forbidden to reopen a grave once it had been sealed. There was also concern about ritual impurity from contact with the dead, leading people to avoid coming within close proximity of a tomb. In essence, Jesus was asking them to perform an act that was both culturally prohibited and personally repulsive.

Yet the Master who touched the leper and raised the widow of Nain's son did not hesitate to transcend these boundaries, and he called his followers to do the same. If Jesus had the power to raise Lazarus, he also had the power to move the stone himself. Indeed, at his own resurrection, the stone was rolled away without human intervention. However, in this moment, he chose to involve his followers. This raises an important question: what stones must we remove from our own lives before Jesus acts on our behalf? The obstacles we carry, however uncomfortable or contrary to our habits, must be confronted. We are called to confess our sins, seek reconciliation, and remove the barriers that stand in the way, so that his power can be fully at work in our lives.

3. Remove the Grave Clothes

The removal of the stone was the necessary preparation for resurrection, while the removal of the grave clothes was the necessary continuation of it. The Jewish method of wrapping the body, while different from Egyptian mummification, was still highly effective. A long, narrow cloth was folded, and the body was placed within it. The cloth was then wrapped and secured tightly around the body. The head was wrapped separately.

The work that follows a miracle is as important as the miracle itself. The miracle is not the end, but the start. There is nothing more striking than the image of a living person still bound in grave clothes. This moment calls for a deeper commitment to one's relationship with God, much like Lazarus later reclining with Jesus. To fully live in that restored life and to serve as a testimony to others, one must remove the grave clothes and address the conditions that led to the tomb in the first place. This requires turning away from former ways so that the reversal of decay is not temporary, but enduring.

Let us examine the areas of our lives that are in decay and in need of reversal. Reverse decay is impossible by the laws and methods of this world, but everything is possible with our God. May the Lord grant us the humility to seek his help and, in seasons of waiting, draw us deeper into his presence. May he also reveal the hidden stench of sin within us and give us the courage to remove the stones that conceal it through confession. Finally, after experiencing his transforming power, may we turn away from our old ways and walk in renewed life, so that we may truly abide with him.

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Small classrooms, big futures - bringing quality education to the last mile.

Micro Schools: A Transformative Education Model for Remote Garo Hills



The Need in the Hills

In the remote villages of the Garo Hills, access to quality education remains a significant challenge. Difficult terrain, scattered populations, limited infrastructure, and a low literacy rate have made it hard for conventional schooling systems to reach every child.

For many children, long travel distances, lack of teachers, and economic hardship lead to irregular attendance or complete dropout. In this context, the micro school model emerges as a practical and impactful solution- bringing education closer to the child, right within the community.

What is a Micro School?

A micro school is a small, community-based learning center, typically serving 10 - 30 children within a village or cluster of villages.

These schools operate in:

- Homes
- Community halls
- Temporary or low-cost structures

They are designed to be:

- Affordable
- Flexible
- Contextual to local needs
- Easily replicable

Rather than waiting for large infrastructure, micro schools prioritize access, quality, and continuity of learning.

How Micro Schools Function

Micro schools in remote settings follow a simplified but effective model:

- Multi-grade teaching: One teacher handles students of different age groups

- Local facilitators: Teachers are often from the same or nearby communities
- Flexible timing: Adjusted to agricultural seasons and local realities
- Foundational focus: Literacy, numeracy, values, and life skills
- Community involvement: Parents and local leaders play an active role

This model ensures that education becomes accessible, relevant, and sustainable.

Advantages of Micro Schools

1. Last-Mile Access

Children no longer need to travel long distances. Education reaches even the most remote households.

2. Cost-Effective Model

Minimal infrastructure and locally recruited teachers significantly reduce costs.

3. Community Ownership

Villagers feel responsible for the school, increasing accountability and sustainability.

4. Personalized Learning

Small group sizes allow individual attention, improving learning outcomes.

5. Flexibility

Schedules and teaching methods can adapt to local needs and cultural context.

6. Rapid Scalability

Micro schools can be started quickly in multiple villages without heavy investment.

Challenges and Disadvantages

1. Limited Qualified Teachers

Finding trained educators willing to work in remote villages is difficult.

2. Multi-Grade Complexity

Handling multiple levels in one classroom requires skill and planning.

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Director
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3. Resource Constraints

Lack of teaching materials, digital tools, and infrastructure can limit quality.

4. Recognition and Certification

Micro schools may struggle with formal recognition from education authorities.

5. Risk of Inconsistency

Without proper monitoring, quality may vary across different micro schools.

Bottlenecks for Growth

For the micro school model to expand effectively, several barriers must be addressed:

1. Teacher Pipeline Shortage

Scaling requires a continuous supply of trained facilitators.

2. Lack of Standardized Curriculum

Inconsistent teaching content can affect learning outcomes.

3. Weak Monitoring Systems

Difficulty in ensuring quality across dispersed locations.

4. Financial Sustainability

Dependence on external funding can slow expansion.

5. Parental Awareness

Some families may not immediately see the value of consistent education.



Overcoming the Challenges

1. Develop Local Teachers

- Train youth from within the community
- Provide continuous mentoring and skill development
- Create a pathway for career growth

2. Simple, Structured Curriculum

- Use standardized, easy-to-follow modules
- Focus on foundational literacy and numeracy
- Incorporate local language and culture

3. Strong Monitoring & Support

- Cluster-level supervisors for regular visits
- Use simple assessment tools
- Encourage peer learning among teachers

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Micro Schools: A Transformative Education Model for Remote Garo Hills

4. Hybrid Resource Model

- Combine low-cost physical materials with digital content (where possible)
- Use mobile-based learning aids

5. Community Engagement

- Conduct awareness programs for parents
- Involve village leaders in oversight
- Encourage small local contributions for ownership

6. Pathways to Formal Education

- Align curriculum with government standards

Facilitate transition to formal schools when possible



A Scalable Vision for the Future

Micro schools are not just a temporary solution—they are a strategic model for educational transformation in regions like the Garo Hills.

By starting small and multiplying across villages, this approach can:

- Improve literacy rates
- Empower communities
- Create local employment
- Build a strong foundation for future generations

Conclusion

In the remote hills of Garo, where formal systems rarely reach, micro schools are lighting the way forward.

They show that education isn't built on infrastructure alone - but on commitment, creativity, and community.

P R Baby Foundation has already established two successful micro schools in the remote regions of South Garo Hills, Meghalaya - models that can be easily replicated in similar underserved areas.

With the right vision, training, and support, this can grow into a powerful movement.

Our goal: 100 micro schools - ensuring no child is left behind.

Hardingson A Sangma

Elevate A Million Transforming Rural Farmers through Contract Farming



From uncertainty to assured growth - empowering farmers through partnerships and scale.



The Rural Reality

Across rural India, millions of farmers work tirelessly yet struggle with uncertain incomes, fluctuating market prices, and limited access to reliable buyers. Despite hard work, the lack of structured market linkages often leaves farmers vulnerable to middlemen and price volatility.

To truly **elevate a million farmers**, the focus must shift from subsistence farming to **market-oriented, income-driven agriculture**. One of the most powerful tools to achieve this transformation is **contract farming**.

What is Contract Farming?

What is Contract Farming?

Contract farming is an arrangement where farmers enter into an agreement with buyers—such as companies, cooperatives, or aggregators—to produce and supply agricultural products under predetermined conditions.

These agreements typically include:

- Assured market access
- Pre-agreed pricing or pricing formula
- Quality standards
- Technical guidance and inputs

This creates a structured and predictable farming ecosystem.

How Contract Farming Scales Farmer Income

1. Assured Market = Reduced Risk

Farmers no longer depend on uncertain local markets. Guaranteed buyers ensure produce is sold, reducing post-harvest losses.

2. Better Price Realization

Pre-agreed pricing protects farmers from distress sales and market crashes.

3. Improved Productivity

Companies often provide:

- High-quality seeds
- Scientific farming methods
- Training and advisory support

This leads to higher yields and better-quality produce.

4. Access to Inputs and Credit

Many contracts include input support or link farmers to financial institutions, reducing upfront burden.

5. Value Chain Integration

Farmers become part of a larger ecosystem - from production to processing and retail - capturing more value.

Cont... Page:06

John Alex

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Transforming Rural Farmers through Contract Farming

Building a Future through Contract Farming

Contract farming is not just about immediate income - it creates long-term transformation:

Skill development: Farmers learn modern agricultural practices

Financial stability: Predictable income enables planning and investment

Asset creation: Increased earnings lead to better living standards

Next-generation engagement: Youth see farming as a viable livelihood

Transition to agri-entrepreneurship: Farmers evolve into organized producers

This shifts farming from survival to sustainable enterprise.

Advantages of Contract Farming For Farmers

- Assured buyers and reduced market risk
- Stable and often higher incomes
- Access to technology and expertise
- Reduced dependency on middlemen

For Buyers/Companies

- Reliable supply of quality produce
- Traceability and consistency
- Strong farmer relationships

For the Ecosystem

- Improved productivity and efficiency
- Reduced wastage
- Strengthened rural economy

Bottlenecks and Challenges

1. Power Imbalance

Farmers may be at a disadvantage in negotiating terms.

2. Trust Deficit

Past experiences of unfair practices can create skepticism.

3. Quality Compliance Issues

Farmers may struggle to meet strict quality standards initially.

4. Fragmented Land Holdings

Small and scattered farms make aggregation difficult.

5. Lack of Awareness

Many farmers are unfamiliar with contract terms and legal implications.

6. Risk of Dependency

Over-reliance on a single buyer can be risky.

Overcoming the Bottlenecks

1. Strengthen Farmer Collectives

- Form FPOs (Farmer Producer Organizations)
- Negotiate contracts collectively for better terms

2. Transparent Agreements

- Clear, fair, and simple contracts
- Legal literacy and awareness for farmers

3. Capacity Building

- Regular training on quality standards
- Demonstration farms and field support

4. Technology Integration

- Use digital platforms for traceability and communication
- Provide real-time advisory services

5. Diversified Market Linkages

- Avoid dependency on a single buyer
- Create multiple contract opportunities

6. Institutional Support

- Partnerships with NGOs, agri-tech firms, and government schemes

Pathway to Elevating Rural Farmers

To elevate rural farmers at scale, a holistic approach is required:

1. Organize

Mobilize farmers into groups, cooperatives, or FPOs.

2. Educate

Provide continuous training in modern agriculture and business practices.

3. Integrate

Connect farmers directly to markets through contract farming and supply chains.

4. Digitize

Leverage technology for transparency, traceability, and efficiency.

5. Empower

Enable farmers to move up the value chain—from producers to stakeholders.

From Farmers to Agripreneurs

The ultimate goal is not just increased income - but transformation.

When farmers:

- Understand markets
- Use technology
- Work collectively
- Engage in value addition

They evolve from traditional cultivators into agripreneurs—confident, skilled, and future-ready.

Conclusion

Contract farming, when implemented with fairness, transparency, and strong support systems, can become a powerful engine to

elevate a million rural farmers.

It bridges the gap between farmers and markets, reduces uncertainty, and unlocks the true potential of rural agriculture.

The journey ahead is not just about farming more—it is about earning more, growing more, and becoming more.

John Alex

Gasa English Medium Higher Secondary School

Celebrates Another Year of 100% Board Success!



Gasa English Medium Higher Secondary School, Dilma Chiagdin, East Garo Hills, has achieved a remarkable 100% pass result in the Class X board examinations.

This milestone is especially significant in a region where the overall literacy rate is around 40%, and access to quality education remains a major challenge. The achievement reflects the dedication, perseverance, and hard work of both the students and the committed team of teachers who continue to serve in this remote and underserved area.

Adding to this encouraging progress, the school is set to launch its Higher Secondary (+2) classes from the academic year 2026, opening new doors of opportunity for students to pursue further education within their own community.

This accomplishment stands as a testimony to what focused effort, vision, and commitment can achieve - even in the most challenging contexts.

P A. PAUL, Director
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