

# Wings of HOPE

30 JULY 2023

THROUGH  
THE LIVES OF  
WAODANI TRIBE

For Private Circulation Only

AN ENGLISH DIGITAL WEEKLY FROM CHRISTIAN LIVE FAMILY





# Wings of HOPE

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## CONTENTS

**04** Hope In Our World Today

**05** From Savage to Saint

**08** Transformed

**09** My Life is in His Hands

**11** Wonderful Counselor

**12** The Invitation

**14** 256 Churches Demolished  
In Manipur India

**14** God's Pursuit of You



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**BLESSIN JOHN MALAYIL**  
Chief Editor

# Let's Pray for Manipur!

The Christian community is facing a lot of violence around the world today. For example, let's look at Manipur in the north-eastern region of India! There was a lot of Christian population in this state, but things have changed considerably in the last couple of months.

Hundreds of Christians have been killed so far in the violence that broke out between the two tribal groups here, known as Kukis and Meites. Thousands have been injured. Many women were raped. Even small children were burnt to death by the assailants. Houses and churches were burnt. Tens of thousands fled their homes.

There is no solution to this issue till date. The Indian government led by Narendra Modi, on the other hand, is keeping silent on the riots.

The governments of the United States and England have expressed concern over the issue. But innocent people are still being attacked.

Will you, dear readers, pray for this matter? The church has been going through a lot of persecution since the first century. There were many levels of attacks on Peter and Paul. Not only then, but also today, the persecution against the Christian Church is increasing. However, it is the prayers of believers that sustain the Christian Church in the face of persecution. Of course we can remember Manipur!

May peace prevail in Manipur, India! And may God give the ability and strength abundantly to the believers out there to survive the persecutions!



# Hope In Our World Today

**W**e are living in challenging times where our thoughts are channelled on the suffering and pressures of the cost of living and what is happening around us. In 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 (KJV) He reminds us in His word "Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, Comfort your hearts and stablish you in every good word and work."

So, the question becomes how we build our hope. To do that we need to understand what hope is. Hope is the confident expectation of what God has promised and its strength is in His faithfulness.

The word for hope in Hebrew (Tikvah), however means expectation—and it also means cord or rope, Something that a person can look up to.

Through our trials and desperation where we fail or are faced with depression, fear or confusion, remember that Jesus is the Author and Finisher of our faith. Through His love we find strength and courage to fight through every situation.

Around the world, we hear about natural disasters, wars, diseases and economic struggles but as Christians we know that in Deuteronomy 31:6: "Be strong and

courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you."

Just as it is written in Philippians 4:19 "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus".

Let us be grounded in the word because Our hope is founded on the rock of our faith in the one God, who undergirds all we see, hear and touch.

Knowing that his message in Psalms 33:18-19 says "Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy. To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine".

Finally, dear brethren be encouraged in the promise that no matter the situation "but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint." (Isaiah 40:31).

Be strong and of Good courage because Jesus has conquered the world as he said in Joshua 1:9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

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**Through our trials and desperation where we fail or are faced with depression, fear or confusion, remember that Jesus is the Author and Finisher of our faith.**



**Maryann Bosah** is a Digital Creator, Author, writes Christian Poetry and Produces Christian music under the name kingdom Singer, UK.

**MARYANN BOSAH**







# From Savage to Saint

Waadani was the fieriest warrior tribe which evoked terror and ominous panic among the communities next to their habitat in Amazon rain forest in Ecuador.



**D**uring this hard time of Corona onslaught, news of the death of Mincaye, a Waodani tribe leader who lived in the rainforests of Amazon, in Ecuador generated much interest in evangelical and cross cultural mission circles. Mincaye's life as a warrior of one of the most uncivilised tribes of 20th century, the Waodani, and as a foot soldier of Jesus Christ still inspire millions of people around the world, not because of dramatic twists and unexpected turns in his life but of the power of Jesus Christ who can transform savages to saints.

Waadani was the fieriest warrior tribe which evoked terror and ominous panic among the communities next to their habitat in Amazon rain forest in Ecuador. According to anthropologists, the Waodanis' culture was revengeful and brutal. Their language had no words like "peace" and "thank you". Other tribes called them aucas, "naked savages." In a small settlement near the Curaray River, people like Mincaye and others grew up learning: Kill or be killed. The Waodoni had constituted a lethal hazard to oil company officials, explorers, rubber plantation workers and other tribes living in Amazon rain forest. Missionaries and explorers from 15th century onwards tried to reach this savage tribe. However, their endeavour ended in tragedy as most of them were either killed or fatally wounded by spear attack by Waodoni warriors. They never went out of their geographical boundary and they did not use any of the things the modern human beings use including clothes. Mostly, they ate wild cassava, plantain and hunted meat without salt. They could not even access simple necessities like salt, rice, sugar and kerosene.

During the end of 19th century, rubber traders and

explorers tried to usurp their forest land for planting rubber trees. They lured the tribesmen with gifts and won their confidence. Once they were unarmed the white men and their Ecuadorian militia

brutally killed the tribal people and burned down their settlements. They were forced to go further inside the thick forest. This incident of bait and kill angered the Waodoni and they stiffly opposed any further advancement towards their territory by outsiders. They continue to receive gifts from outsiders and even the Waodoni sent return gifts to the foreigners. However, through their primitive guerrilla warfare they eliminated the gift giving people who tried to enter their borders.

The Waodoni led life similar to Stone Age man with no trace of modernity. Even their weapons are made of stones and wood. Nate Saint, a missionary pilot serving Mission Aviation Fellowship in Ecuador, while flying to jungle mission stations in Amazon rainforest with provisions for missionaries, accidentally saw Waodoni settlements on the banks of rivers Curaray and Napo. The need of Jesus to be heard in this primitive community haunted Nate. He along with other Plymouth Brethren missionaries Jim Elliot, Peter Fleming, Ed McCully, and Roger Youderian tried to establish contact with this tribe after several gift droppings from their bush plane. Soon they landed on the sand bar of Curaray river in the year 1956 hoping the Waodoni would respond positively. And they waited eagerly for the tribesmen

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while some of them cleared the area for safe landing and takeoff. The tribesmen really came to them after five days but with spears and machetes. They brutally killed all of the five young, bright and loving missionaries. One of the leaders of the killing group who took personal interest slaughtering at least two missionaries was Mincaye who passed away on 28 April 2020.

The story is not over yet. The young wives of missionaries though devastated by hearing the news did not leave Ecuador. Instead, they stayed back in jungle stations and served other tribal people with Gospel, medical care, education and essential services. After two years of the incident, two Waodoni women came to missionary women and requested them to visit and stay in their settlements. Nate Saint's small children, his sister Rachel Saint and Jim Elliot's family went over and stayed with them for many years. Missionaries started learning their language and teaching them about the Bible. Mincaye and Gikika, both the killers of missionaries, quickly came to faith in Christ. Eventually, most of the people discarded their old custom of killing as well as primitive and brutal customs though all did not come to Christian faith. The influence of Gospel on the people was far reaching. The missionaries established schools and health clinics in their settlements.

Mincaye learnt Bible and become a church leader in their Waodoni Church. When Nate Saint's children grew up and were ready to testify Lord in baptism no pastor was available there in the jungle settlement to conduct baptism service. Mincaye took the responsibility and took Nate's children and new believers to Curaray river, the spot where the missionaries were killed. Mincaye

baptised Nate's children and others there. He soon to became known as an itinerant preacher to other tribes and was a much-respected elder in the Ecuadorian Church.

Nate Saint's children including Steve Saint spent their school days in Ecuador.

Mincaye's conversion is extraordinary. The forgiveness and acceptance that the Holy Spirit enabled in the Saint family to adopt Mincaye as their father and grandfather perhaps even more extraordinary. Steve Saint arranged several trips to America for Mincaye. The new world fascinated Mincaye who never saw the world outside his jungle home. He was spellbound by display of food items in super markets in US Cities. When he went back to his home in forest he told his wife what he had seen in America. "Take food as much as you want and give the plastic piece to the beautiful girl at the counter. She will give back the plastic to Steve. And all the food is yours." Mincaye who did not know how to count money, could not understand the idea of credit and debit cards. Together, he and Steve Saint travelled to many countries and shared the amazing story of transformation of the most savage people on the earth.

While staying at Steve Saint's Orlando home, Mincaye also witnessed the death of Steve's young daughter Stephenie. After spending a year for mission work in Trinidad, 20 year old Stephenie was back at home. She was excited to see her grandfather Mincaye and joined the celebrations along with parents and siblings. After a few hours she started getting severe headaches and she suddenly fell into a coma. Emergency medical services were called and she was hospitalized. A thorough Medical examination revealed that



Steve described Mincaye's response in his book 'End of the Spear' when he saw Stephenie unconscious and tubes and wires connecting her to machines.







## The story of Mincaye and the martyrdom of five missionaries continue to impact millions of people around the World.

What Mincaye sensed was right. Stephenie slipped from coma to eternity. Steve Saint and wife Ginny were inconsolable. "As the black cloud of despair shrouded me, I could feel my faith slipping away.

she suffered a severe brain haemorrhage and there was no chance for survival.

Steve described Mincaye's response in his book 'End of the Spear' when he saw Stephenie unconscious and tubes and wires connecting her to machines.

"Mincaye's reaction was different. As soon as he saw Nemo (Stephenie's Waodoni name) unconscious, with tubes and wires connecting her to strange boxes while total strangers did even stranger things to her, he grabbed me and pulled my face to him with his hand behind my neck. He had a horrible look on his face that I had seen only a few times in my life – and up to this point only in jungle. "Babe, (Steve's Waodoni name) who is doing this thing?" His eyes darted around the busy emergency area of the large hospital, trying to make sense of what was happening. He repeated the questions with even more intensity. This look on his face was beginning to frighten me. His hand on my shoulder and neck was squeezing so tightly that it was starting to hurt me. Mincaye had killed who knows how many people with his own hands. I realised he was ready to do it again to protect my daughter, whom he desperately loved. I wanted to explain. I told Mincaye – I don't know. No one is doing this."

Mincaye came to his senses and understood what was really going on there. He grabbed Steve's hands and said, "Babe, now I see this well. Don't you see, Waengongi (Creator) is doing this Himself, taking Nemo to live in Oneidi (heaven) with Him."

Mincaye started talking to people who came to hospital to comfort Steve Saint Family. He was speaking in Waodoni language.

"People, people, do not you see what is happening? Waengongi, loving Nemo, He is taking her to live with Him now. Being an old man, I will go live there too, very soon. If you will only walk with Waengongi's trail, then you will come to His place, and Nemo and I will be there waiting. Happily, we will greet you."

What Mincaye sensed was right. Stephenie slipped from coma to eternity. Steve Saint and wife Ginny were inconsolable. "As the black cloud of despair shrouded me, I could feel my faith slipping away. But Mincaye was wrapping his arms and his faith around me," writes Steve.

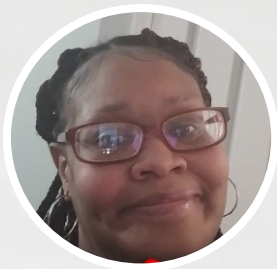
In the year 2000, Steve Saint, Mincaye and another Waodoni man Tementa attended Amsterdam Conference organised by Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. Steve and Mincaye got opportunity to speak in front of 11,000 delegates from 209 countries. Clad in traditional tribal attire with a necklace made of wild boar teeth and a feather cap, Mincaye addressed the audience. "My ancestors lived angry and hated each other. We spear everybody not only foreigners but our own people. When I killed Steve's father, I did not know either until somebody came to teach me God's carvings and then I began to understand. My heart was black and sick in sin, but then I heard that God sent His own son. His blood dripping and dripping, He washed away my heart clean. Now I live well. Leaving in just few days, I may never see you again here. But I will see you there (meaning heaven). Speaking God's carvings all over the world, let us take lot of people, following God's trail, to live with us in heaven, God's place."

Mincaye finished his short speech and was greeted by a standing ovation and thunderous applause for two minutes.

The story of Mincaye and the martyrdom of five missionaries continue to impact millions of people around the World. When Mincaye reached the place of Waengongi (God) on 28 April 2020, he might have seen the missionaries he slaughtered and might have thanked them for their sacrifice which was instrumental in taking him to Waengongi's place.



# Transformed



Lateicha Y McMillan

I called out to God and asked Him why?  
He said to me, "Child why do you cry?"  
My health is failing, my body is weak  
My throat is so dry, I can barely speak  
My hair is gone, I lie in pain  
It seems that everyday there's rain.  
He looked at me and said, "Peace, be still!  
All things are done according to My will.  
Trust in Me and you will not fall.  
I will bring you through it all.  
The doctors say no, but I say YES.  
I'm telling you child, you shall pass the test.  
Your kidneys may fail, your skin may burn.  
Believe in Me and your health will turn.  
My daughter, you had gone off track.  
I used your health to bring you back.  
I had to bring you to your knees,  
So you'd turn to Me and say 'Father please!'  
You think no one can understand,  
But I will hold you in My hand.  
I will help you on this ride,  
Just set aside your foolish pride.  
Open up your heart to Me,  
For I am the one who will set you free."  
I'll put my pride upon the shelf  
And stop trying to do it by myself.  
I want to give my life to thee,  
Confess my sins and be set free.  
I will go down beneath the water.  
I'm ready to become your daughter.  
"You heard My word, now follow the Bible.  
I have transformed you into a disciple.  
Now go my child and testify,  
For you shall live, you will NOT die."

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**Lateicha McMillan**

is a Mother of 4,  
Writer, Christian Poet,  
and Lupus Warrior  
from Newark, NJ.





# MY LIFE IS IN HIS HANDS

BEN SALVATORE

## A True Allegory

I was baptized in September 2020 during Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, which commemorates the act of Creation when God brought light into the darkness. I didn't plan it out this way; it just so happened, as things of significance often do. I wish I could recount the full story of what led me into that lake, but it hasn't been revealed to me yet. C.S. Lewis observed that "man's search for God" would be better framed as "the mouse's search for the cat." Likewise, I could not have possibly pursued God; He was already pursuing me. So in lieu of the full story, I'll flash back five years to my first night in a rural village in Burkina Faso, where I served as a Peace Corps Volunteer from 2015–2017. On that warm September night in 2015, five years before my baptism, I was an unwitting foil in a rare literary form that I call a true allegory: True, because it actually happened. Allegorical, because it was obviously authored by the One who wrote the full story of salvation, and it is pregnant with symbolism that I could not have possibly understood at the time.

The Peace Corps car dropped me off under a baobab tree in a village called Tangasgo in the central-north region of Burkina. I was left in the care of one man, Sidiki, who was among the few villagers who spoke fluent French, so he could introduce me to the village and walk me to my mud-brick hut about a quarter mile down the dirt path. The sun had set hours before, so the moon was our only source of

light. In Arabic, the name Sidiki means "my friend." I studied Arabic in college, and I tried to express the semantic serendipity I heard in that. Sidiki didn't speak Arabic, so the melody rang in my ears alone. As we walked along the path to my new home, I kept close to Sidiki, shoulder-to-shoulder, feeling for rocks and roots with my feet, but relying entirely on his eyes, which were trained from infancy to walk these paths by moonlight. Suddenly, I felt him grip my arm and yank me off the path, crying out, "Attention: serpent!" Look out, a snake! As he pulled me back, he lunged

himself forward, and in one swift stomp, Sidiki crushed the snake's head under his heel. Snakes in this region are deadly venomous, and the nearest hospital was many miles away. So, on my first night in his village, Sidiki saved me from certain death. I can say with conviction that after two years of service, I never came close to repaying that debt. This is not the story of how I came to faith. I was nowhere near ready to accept the gospel when I arrived in that village in September 2015. I hadn't even heard the gospel yet. It is, however, a

fitting representation of my relationship to Christ. I have not sought Him so much as He has made it increasingly clear to me, moment by precious moment, that my life is utterly contingent on His saving grace.

From my youth all the way through my late twenties, I was an atheist. I cut my theological teeth, as it were, on the writings of Dawkins, Hitchens, Harris, and Dennett—the so-called "New Atheists"—who were certain that "the God

I listened to the sermon and heard for the first time what I now know to be the core of Christianity: that nothing I can achieve or acquire in this world will ever make me feel fully justified or secure.





himself. He sent me a sermon by Tim Keller on idolatry that was trained like a guided missile at the heart of the striving Manhattanite—we who are in desperate, panting pursuit of money, prestige, and power to fill the God-shaped void in our hearts. We who collect and display our professional accolades and sterling resumes in an effort to justify our existence. Yet no achievement ever seems to satisfy our need. As I contemplated my next move, to that great and powerful institution that promises all the success and respect and material comfort in the world, I felt nothing but despair, vanity, and emptiness.

I listened to the sermon and heard for the first time what I now know to be the core of Christianity: that nothing I can achieve or acquire in this world will ever make me feel fully justified or secure. Only the finished work of Christ on the cross can do that. In all of my efforts, I had been striving to stretch up to God, whose existence I hadn't even yet acknowledged. But the chasm that lay between us was so vast that it could only be bridged by God coming down to me. And so he did. And he lived the perfect life; he performed as I, the striving perfectionist, never could. And he took the punishment I feared I deserved if I couldn't perform. The gospel was the perfect (and only) antidote to my existential angst. Hearing the work of Christ on the cross described that way—in the context of my own sudden certainty that all the prestige and power and achievement under the sun could never satisfy my ambition—brought me instantly to my knees. Suddenly, I was dependent on God himself for my salvation. I flashed back to the way I felt that first night in Burkina Faso, when Sidiki crushed the head of the snake with his heel. I was utterly dependent yet somehow, miraculously safe. Saved. There was nothing I did to deserve my life being spared. Indeed, there was nothing I could do. I had to accept it as a gift, with nothing to offer but my sincere gratitude.

Work is different now, after having received a heart of flesh in place of my former heart of stone. Last year, I graduated law school and passed the bar, and I now work at a high-powered litigation firm in Manhattan. The work is difficult and stressful, but it does not crush me or consume me. I am free to do excellent work and serve my superiors and my clients with zeal because I do not face the more profound and pernicious pressure of having to justify myself to my peers and, ultimately, to God. Christ's work on the cross provides that deep rest—as Pastor Keller called it, that “REM sleep for the soul”—that frees us to do good work, out of sheer gratitude and for the glory of God. I shudder to think how restless, stressed, and insecure I would be if I had to do this work apart from Him. But with a gospel-changed heart, all things are possible, and anything is bearable. So thank You, Lord, for chasing me down. While I was still living in ignorance, You pursued me. You brought me home.

concept” was a pathological delusion. Now I see that the atheist argument is essentially circular: There couldn't possibly be a God, so those who claim to know Him must be deluded. It's a blatant fallacy, but I somehow couldn't see it then.

I am reminded of verse 10 in the letter of Jude, where it is written of false teachers, “these people blaspheme all that they do not understand, and they are destroyed by all that they, like unreasoning animals, understand instinctively.” The only way to know God, then, is for our instincts to be changed. Where God is present, our capacity for reason doesn't improve, but our premises are amended to make room for Him. As Tim Keller has often expressed, God's rejoinder to the atheists is not a perfect syllogism, but a perfect Person. When Christ came into my life, He upended the table. His words and deeds have flipped my seat and sent me tumbling toward the New Jerusalem.

I accepted Christ consciously in the summer of 2019, just about a month before I started my first semester at Harvard Law School. I had been engaged in a series of conversations over the course of the preceding months with a friend and coworker who was exploring Christianity

I ACCEPTED CHRIST CONSCIOUSLY IN THE SUMMER OF 2019, JUST ABOUT A MONTH BEFORE I STARTED MY FIRST SEMESTER AT HARVARD LAW SCHOOL. I HAD BEEN ENGAGED IN A SERIES OF CONVERSATIONS OVER THE COURSE OF THE PRECEDING MONTHS WITH A FRIEND AND COWORKER WHO WAS EXPLORING CHRISTIANITY HIMSELF.

**Ben Salvatore,**  
A Jewish Messianic  
Christian shares his  
testimony



# WONDERFUL COUNSELOR

SIERRA HALL



**F**or unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." - Isaiah 9:6

The Bible verse above lists some names that Jesus Christ will be(is now) called by. These are not only names, but promises of who Christ will be to His followers- Wonderful Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, and The Prince of Peace. Do you know Him in these capacities? Have you called upon Him as the Wonderful Counselor? The Prince of Peace? Do you need to become more acquainted with these aspects of your savior? If so, you are not alone!

The procurement and/or maintenance of mental wellness has risen to the forefront of the American agenda. Everywhere you look, there's a new initiative focused on such matters. Campaigns for suicide prevention, self awareness, and increased mental strength have arrived none too soon, though. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, 1 in every 5 adults in the USA experience some form of mental illness. That's 20% of American adults, approximately 51,843,903 people affected by mental illness in their adulthood. This staggering statistic encompasses diagnoses ranging from common anxiety disorders to conditions that involve extreme psychosis and breaks from reality as well as various other illnesses. Regardless of a specific diagnosis(or lack thereof), such concerns should be taken seriously due to the overwhelming impact they can have on day-to-day life.

The intense nature of battling mental health concerns is made plain in Psalm 38. David writes of how he is "troubled"(v. 6). He describes what we would likely call depression as a "loathsome disease"(v. 7) that leaves him "mourning all the day long"(v. 6). He writes of the heaviness he feels(v. 4). He even indicates that he has become isolated in the following verses(v. 11-14). His hope is in God, though, and he makes his plea in the last verse of this chapter, which says "Make haste to help me, O Lord my salvation."(v. 22). This verse makes it clear that David knew God could save him from anything, even the torments of his own mind.

While David serves as an obvious roadmap on

how to navigate mental illness as a child of God, it is important to note one key difference; David lived prior to the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. The veil was not yet rent! Regular offerings were still required to cover his sin before he could commune with God. Jesus Christ has changed that for us, though! First and foremost, as the Son of God who sinned not, Jesus was the perfect sacrifice for all sin. By His blood we have been made pure in the eyes of God. That is exactly what makes Him the Wonderful Counselor. He bridges the gap between you and God. He takes all your mess and replaces it with the true glory of God. He facilitates the exchange of your brokenness for a newness in Him.

While other counselors don't quite meet the same mark, they can play an essential role in achieving mental wellness. Proverbs 15:22 states that a multitude of counselors helps someone to find their purpose. God puts people in your life to direct you according to His purpose! Whether finding purpose or acquiring strategies to best navigate through life, regular counseling with a licensed professional can help keep you on track. It can also be beneficial to seek counsel from wise friends or family members that have your best interest at heart. A relationship with the Wonderful Counselor, Jesus Christ, is the greatest weapon when your mind becomes a battlefield. Seek God first. He'll direct your steps.

**Sierra Hall** is a budding writer from Oklahoma with a passion for helping people and a fervent faith in God. She is also an avid poet, gardener, and homemaker.



# THE INVITATION

CARL ERICKSON



**“No matter what you have done, or how little faith you may have, or what you bad things you may do in the future, if you will confess your sins, and tell God you believe Jesus is the only way to be forgiven, then God is faithful and just, and will forgive you of all your sins and cleanse you from all unrighteousness.”**

**T**he Bible is God's love letter to mankind. It is an invitation to all the world to believe in Him, and to live with Him forever.

Recorded thru history carefully by God, the Bible is the best selling book ever, and has predicted over 2,000 future events perfectly. The odds of this mathematically are beyond calculating, unexplainable, and indeed proof it is supernatural.

God of the Bible is the only god in history who has said He will be your father. And most importantly, He is the only one who does not ask you to earn His love and favor somehow, but rather showed His love by dying for you. Now, that is love!

The Bible is also the only book that explains and exposes evil and the devil. People often ask, if God is all good and all powerful, then why doesn't He do something about evil? Well very soon, because many are becoming so evil again like they did thousands of years ago, He is going to act! This time He will not judge with a flood, but by fire. And this time, He won't save only a few as He did with Noah and his family. This time, He will save all those who believe by taking them off the Earth and onto Heaven in a flash. It will be a miracle as millions disappear, but likely many on Earth will think it was aliens. Then He will judge and defeat evil, and Jesus will come to rule and reign Himself.

Evil is rebellion from the good laws of God. Since the first man and woman, people have rebelled or sinned, wanting to do things their own way. "Have you ever been rejected by someone you love dearly? Thought it might be forever? God feels that way about you, and this is why He sent Jesus as a way back to Him. Do you sense something or someone

missing too? He died with open arms.

You see, God knows every thought, hears every word, and sees your heart. And He tells us in the Bible that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23) When you lie, cheat, steal, lust for someone who is not your spouse, or hate, etc, you are breaking God's laws for the good of everyone. No amount of good deeds can make up for that. Your soul is tainted and unholy, which separates you from a Holy God. But God solved the world, that He gave His only begotten son, that whoever believes in Him would not perish but have everlasting life with Him in Heaven. (John 3:16)

Jesus was born of a virgin, lived a perfect life, performed many miracles in public, died willingly on everyone else's behalf, was raised from the dead by the Father, and appeared before many, so that you may believe. Jesus made the claim once that, "I am the way the truth, and the Life. There is no other way to the Father Me." (John 14:6) Now that you have heard this, He gives you a choice to make. Jesus was lying, was crazy, or was telling the truth.

No matter what you have done, or how little faith you may have, or what you bad things you may do in the future, if you will confess your sins, and tell God you believe Jesus is the only way to be forgiven, then God is faithful and just, and will forgive you of all your sins and cleanse you from all unrighteousness. This is all you need to do!

How can we know for sure the Bible is true? Well, there are many modern-day witnesses who have been saved by believing and now know for sure it is true. I am one.

I was in college when I accepted God's invitation through Jesus. I thought I was already a Christian, but I believed



there must be other ways to He. Wen. I had done some pretty bad things, but was hoping I was good enough. One day someone shared with me that Jesus said He was the ONLY way to Heaven. I had decision to make. I put it off then one day, out of nowhere, I felt the need to pray to God. I told Him that I wasn't sure what would happen to those who didn't know about Jesus, or believed in other gods. "But as for me; I said, " I believe Jesus is the only way to Heaven, and I want to be forgiven'. When I said that, He saved me and sent His Spirit inside of me! Something was different. I knew God had forgiven me. I felt at peace. He picked me up from feelings of despair and hopelessness is, and gave me a reason to live. In the days that followed I got to know God whereas before I had known about Him. I talk to Him in prayer and He answers me. His love is so amazing. It is a humbling experience to know the God who created the world and everything in it, loves me Lui conditionally, even knowing everything about me. I cannot help but tell others about Him.

The thief on the cross next to Him did nothing but believe Jesus was the Messiah, the Savior of the world, and Jesus told him He would be with Him today in paradise. This showed that His invitation is open to everyone. You don't need to do anything but confess Jesus Christ as God and ask for forgiveness in His name. In every other religion, false gods either ask you to earn their favor, or evil spirits ask you to believe there is no God. But time was changed for a reason. TI1eBible is the most read book in history, and millions still proclaim He has saved them like He did me 2,000 years later.

One day in Heaven there will be no more tears, no more pain, no more suffering. TI1is is not some crazy hope or fairy tale. It is the Truth!



What do you believe? What are you waiting for?

The end is near. Do you feel Hin1drawing you? He loves you. Run to Him! This may be your last invitation. You could die sooner than you think, and the signs are clear we live in the last generation when Jesus comes for His bride and the Father judges mankind. The door is closing soon. Don't be left behind!"

**Carl Erickson** is a writer, and a street evangelist. He travels across America and spread the Word of God.

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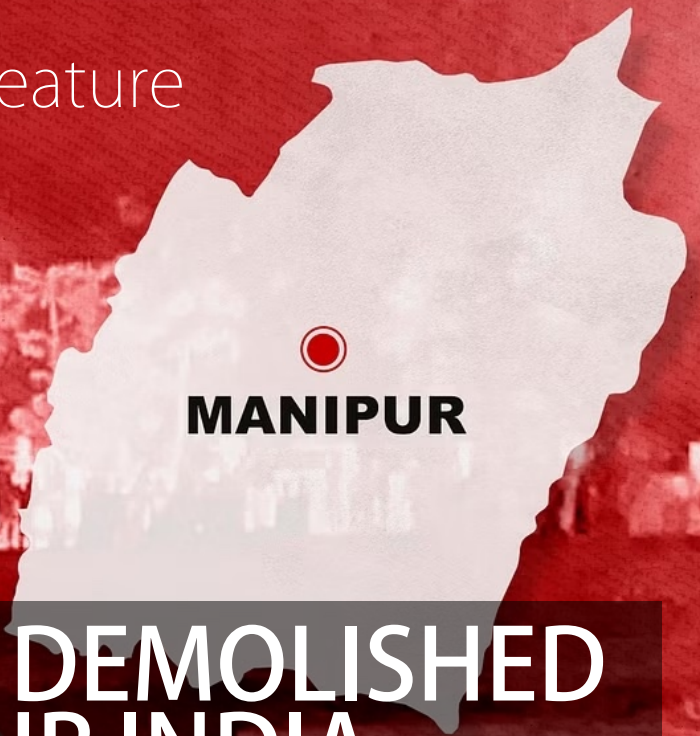
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# 256 CHURCHES DEMOLISHED IN MANIPUR INDIA

**Have you visited Manipur before? What is the relationship with Manipur? What is the purpose behind this trip?**

I have never been to Manipur before the riots. Many people from Manipur have studied with me in the seminary. When I was the principal of the seminary, students from Manipur also studied there. I have visited many regions where problems arose not only in Manipur. When there were some riots in Chhattisgarh, I had been there, met the people and talked to the local government to solve the problem. When there are problems in places, we go there & provide the necessary help.

The reason I went to Manipur is because of the news I received from there, since the riots, many of my friends and acquaintances called & informed me about the problems. After hearing many things that have been spread, I felt a lot of inconsistencies. I went there for the first time in June with the intention of knowing the reality of this and helping those suffering in the riots regardless of caste, religion and caste. After seeing everything, I realized that everything is totally contradictory to what was exactly presented in our country and other places.

Thus with the prayers & support of many children of God we were able to help a lot of people during that crisis. That is the relationship between Manipur and me.

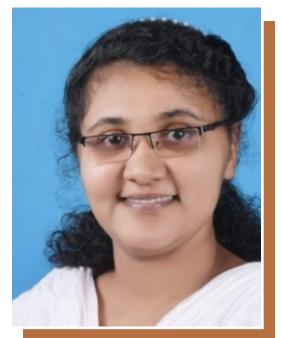
The second time I went to Manipur was to try and resolve issues in a peaceful manner & if we could meet required people who could help solve the problem amicably. During our first visit itself we paved the way & made preparations for that. As you are aware the current issue is between the Kuki & Meiteis community & Naga community is neutral in nature. So on our current visit to Manipur, we had gone with the intention of meeting leaders of the Naga tribe & approaching them in the hope of reuniting both the Meiti and Kuki tribe.

**Who are Meiteis, Kukis and who are Nagas? What is the problem between them?**

Nagas and Kukis are tribals but Meiteis are not tribal, they belonged to tribal division 300 years ago. Manipur was earlier known as Kangleipak. They believed in a religion called Sanamahism. About 300 years ago, a Swamiji came to Kangleipak, which was a native kingdom, and he converted them from Sanamahism to Aryanism. At that time, it was King Pitambaran who became the 1st Hindu convert. So there are many sections within Meiti itself which includes Christians, Muslims & Kshatriya's among them. But Kukis and Nagas are tribes.

**At first it was said that it was a conflict between two races/lineages, but now it is said that it is persecution against Christians. What is the truth behind this?**

This is not an ethnic riot, in order for there to be a ethnic riot, there must have been a pre-existing problem between the Meiteis and the Kukis, but they were living very peacefully. There are other interests behind this. The most important one is economic reasons & financial. With that we have to understand precisely that these tribals have been given a special benefit in the Indian constitution in 1960, and it has been recorded that these hill areas are only for the tribals, which is the freedom that the Indian constitution gives them. No one else can trespass there. In a survey conducted in 2003, it was realized that there is a possibility of getting these petroleum products, and when some companies came and did a study, it was realized that there is a lot of condensation potential, and it was found that diamonds as well as minerals are all available. From that time there was a need for invasion in their mind Some



**SINCHU MATHEW**





companies want to take over the place called More, which is the border of Myanmar(Burma) and India. It is the tribe members that are standing as a barrier & it is not possible for them to occupy that place suddenly. That is why there is a desire to give ST status to the Meiteis. Steps had been taken for it and the High Court Chief Justice Muralidharan has given an order to add people in the ST category within four weeks. Later, the Supreme Court banned this decision and reprimanded him. Everything that happened there is a reflection of that. This is how it became a religious issue rather than an ethnic one. If they are attacking these Kukis or if the problem is between Meiti and Kukis then why are these Meiti Christians churches being demolished. 251 churches and 6 institutions have been demolished in 36 hours. So everything that happened after that was due to the aftermath of the order issued, due to the pressure of militant groups. There are basically 2 militant groups that are creating these issues which is the Arambai Tenggol and Meithilipool.

**Initially it was said that Muslims were the target of this riot? What is the truth behind this?**

As per the information received from important sources their target was not Christians. As per discussions we were told that initially the targets were not Christians. A program was actually planned on 8th June, but if it had to go as per plan then it would have had a very high impact. We were told that the reason for Muslims being targeted was as part of a National agenda. Fear arises from the very thought of this. Because rioting in a peaceful society is painful since they are targeted by creating grudges and hatred amongst them and bringing a divide and rule policy.

Then the question arose as to why Nagas were not targeted & only Kukis were targeted.

Nagas are a dominant community & they have good ties other states. They are advocating for a different country and

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The Christian Church has a great responsibility. Pray and join hands for the evangelization of India and not for communal polarization, the goal of Christians should not be worldly but heavenly. Then Christians are the ones who impart such a view.

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flag. If they are provoked now, the problems are different. Secondly, the minister's 2nd wife is from the Naga community. Then naturally the Chief Minister and everyone else will be affected. Not only that, we need to understand that if there is an agenda behind a riot, nothing will be done together, it will be done in phases. So what we saw here was just the beginning.

**What should the Christian worldwide do in this matter?**

The Christian Church has a great responsibility. Pray and join hands for the evangelization of India and not for communal polarization, the goal of Christians should not be worldly but heavenly. Then Christians are the ones who impart such a view. It can only be done if a suitable government comes in to carry it out, and Christians are always working with the rulers of the kingdom. Our goal is to grow the nation together; then there is no caste and religion discrimination in it. Christians are love and peace makers. Let's pray for Manipur and its children.



# GOD'S PURSUIT OF YOU

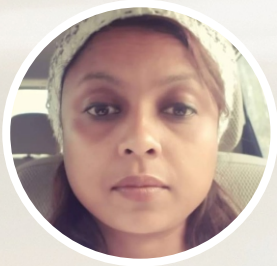
Each day in the Garden of Eden is perfect. The dew waters' their surroundings to a perfect, lush green. Evening in the garden are even more better- if perfection can be improved on. That's when Adam and Eve walk with God. His presence surpasses the rest of their day and brings them joy and peace. But this day is different. They hear the "sound of the Lord God" as He walks in the garden in the cool of the day. But they don't run to meet Him. They don't feel the way they used to. They hide because they are filled with shame, a new emotion for them. (Genesis 3:8-9)

He was a powerful man who abused his power to sleep with another man's wife. But he got her pregnant. And out of fear of exposing his wickedness he tried to hide behind a cover up that turned murderous. (2 Samuel 11)

She suffered from the issue of the blood for 12 years. All that time; unclean, uncomfortable and broken. She saw Jesus heal others and longed to receive His touch. But how could she ask Him in front of the whole crowd? So she sought to hide in anonymity by just touching the fringe of His robe. (Luke 8:43-48)

These are three biblical portraits of people who tried to hide their shame in the wrong places. But the wonderful thing is that all three experienced the Power of God's love to break the shame's hold over them and set them free.

Shame has plagued us since Adam and Eve bit into the fruit and realized they were naked. Their first instinct was to hide from God. We also live in this dangerous world, exposed to other sinners, sinful judgement and rejection making us feel sinful, worthless, weak and damaged



**Sue George**  
**UAE**

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people. We also have the same instinct to hide ourselves. Despite our best intentions and efforts, however often sin rules over us. Besides we are beset with weaknesses hence the kind of shame we experience is the active combination of failure and pride. We fail because we sin, because of our weaknesses and we experience deepest shame and hurt when we fail to live upto other's expectation. Since we are full of sinful pride, we are ashamed of the failures and weaknesses and will go to almost any length to hide them from others and God. Shame frequently urges us to hide and we often get hidden in wrong places. We hide in our homes, away from homes, behind computers and TV, behind earphones and cell phones, Facebook and Instagram facades. We use whatever we can to cover up our shame.

Hiding from shame is not wrong, as long you hide in the right place. There is only one right place to hide which offers protection that we seek for, where all our shame is covered and we no longer need to fear- the refuge of Jesus Christ. (Hebrews 6:18-20)

God is calling you too. Are you running to meet Him or are you hiding from Him? Shame can prevent an intimate, personal relationship with God too. If your sins seem too great and horrible to be forgiven or if your shame seems too overwhelming that it cannot be removed, remember Jesus loves you so much, that He has already taken your sin and shame on Himself. Run to meet Him, He will make you clean and heal all your wounds. Receive His gift and let Him wash your shame away. Remember "Those who look to Him are radiant, their faces are never covered with shame. (Psalm 34:5)

**Sue George**, currently residing in Ras Al Khaimah is an entrepreneur, passionate in writing and music. Married to John, she is the youngest daughter of Late Pr. V. T. George, founder of Revival Church of God, Kerala, India





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