



Voice of Young Moratuwa

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You are to help your brothers until the LORD gives them rest, as he has done for you, and until they too have taken possession of the land that the LORD your God is giving them.

Joshua 1:14



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From the Editors Desk

Joshua is instructing the Israelites not just to look to their own needs but to help each other to cross the Jordan River. The river was perilous and they would need each other to reach the promised land on the other side. He was teaching them to be unselfish!

This life we lead as God's children in our world today is for sure perilous at times. We need each other to journey through it until we are with Christ. God instructs us many times throughout His Word to look to the needs of our brothers and sisters in Christ. This is one reason, it is so important to be part of a local church family. When we are we will be aware of the needs of others around us because we will truly know them.

The world in which we live is usually fighting against God's children. It can be trying at times and when a brother or sister in Christ gives us encouragement to keep going on for Christ we have renewed strength to do just that! I know I have been encouraged by many of you reading this right now. There are enough people in our lives that are discouraging to us on a daily basis at work and various places, how refreshing it is when a fellow believer gives us a kind and encouraging word (Proverbs 15:23).

There are many areas of life that we can assist each other such as helping the elderly with their chores around their house, fixing some meals for needy or those who are going through an illness of some sort...etc. When we pray for God to open our eyes to the needs of those around us He will do just that! And when He does we are to be quick to follow His lead and be a helping hand to them! God has instructed us to love others as we do ourselves (Mark 12:31). If we truly love God, it will come out in our actions towards others!

Suranganie Francis

Christian Emphasis

KNOWING GOD PERSONALLY

Find God - What does it take to know God? This will explain how you can personally begin a relationship with God, right now.

What does it take to begin a relationship with God?

Wait for lightning to strike? Devote yourself to unselfish religious deeds? Become a better person so that God will accept you? NONE of these. God has made it very clear in the Bible how we can know Him. This will explain how you can personally begin a relationship with God, right now...



God loves you and offers a wonderful plan for your life.

God created you. Not only that, he loves you so much that he wants you to know him now and spend eternity with him. Jesus said, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."¹

Jesus came so that each of us could know and understand God in a personal way. Jesus alone can bring meaning and purpose to life. ***What keeps us from knowing God?***

All of us sin and our sin has separated us from God. We sense that separation, that distance from God because of our sin. The Bible tells us that "All of us like sheep have gone astray; each of us has turned to his own way."²

The result of sin in our lives is death -- spiritual separation from God.³ Although we may try to get close to God through our own effort, we inevitably fail. How can we bridge this gap. We may try to do good things in life to earn God's acceptance, But our good efforts are insufficient to cover up our sin

Jesus Christ is God's only provision for our sin. Through him we can know and experience God's love and plan for our life.

We deserve to pay for our own sin. The problem is, the payment is death. So that we would not have to die separated from God, out of his love for us, Jesus Christ died in our place.

The Bible states that Jesus is "the image of the invisible God...by him all things were created...."⁴ Jesus was crucified for blasphemy -- for clearly identifying himself as equal to God -- which he was.

On the cross, Jesus took all of our sin on himself and completely, fully paid for it. "For Christ also died for sins...the just and the unjust, so that he might bring us to God."⁵ "...he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy."⁶ **Because of Jesus' death on the cross, our sin doesn't have to separate us from God any longer.**

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."⁷

Jesus not only died for our sin, he rose from the dead.⁸ When he did, he proved beyond doubt that he can rightfully promise eternal life -- that he is the Son of God and the only means by which we can know God. That is why Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life; no one can come to the Father except through me."⁹

Instead of trying harder to reach God, he tells us how we can begin a relationship with him right now. Jesus says, "Come to me." "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me... out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."¹⁰ It was Jesus' love for us that caused him to endure the cross. And he now invites us to come to him, that we might begin a personal relationship with God.

Just knowing what Jesus has done for us and what he is offering us is not enough. To have a relationship with God, we need to welcome him into our life...

We must individually accept Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

The Bible says, "Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."¹¹ We accept Jesus by faith. The Bible says, "God saved you by his special favour when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. **Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.**"¹²

Accepting Jesus means believing that Jesus is the Son of God, who he claimed to be, then inviting him to guide and direct our lives.¹³ Jesus said, "I came that you might have life, and have it more abundantly."¹⁴

And here is Jesus' invitation. He said, "I'm standing at the door and I'm knocking. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in."¹⁵ How will you respond to God's invitation?

Consider these two aspects : Self directed life where Jesus is outside the life. Decisions and actions are solely made by you often resulting in frustration. Christ directed life where Jesus is in the life and Jesus' influence and direction in life. Which would you like to represent your life ?

Begin a relationship with Jesus...

You can receive Christ right now. Remember that Jesus says, "I'm standing at the door and I'm knocking. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in."¹⁶ Would you like to respond to his invitation? Here's how.

The precise words you use to commit yourself to God are not important. He knows the intentions of your heart. If you are unsure of what to pray, this might help you put it into words:

"Jesus, I want to know you. I want you to come into my life. Thank you for dying on the cross for my sin so that I could be fully accepted by you. Only you can give me the power to change and become the person you created me to be. Thank you for forgiving me and giving me eternal life with God. I give my life to you. Please do with it as you wish. Amen."

If you sincerely asked Jesus into your life just now, then he has come into your life as he promised. You have begun a personal relationship with God.

What follows is a lifelong journey of change and growth as you get to know God better through Bible reading, prayer and interaction with other Christians.

Club Activities

- Donated 10 kg of rice to the David Jayasundera Home for Elders on 2nd Saturday in January/ February and March 2015 sponsored by YM Ranaraj and Menette Mystica. Cost Rs.3,000/- @ Rs.1000/ each.
- A university student studying at the Peradeniya University was given Rs.1,000/- each for his educational expenses for the months of January/Feb//March 2015 sponsored by YM Deepthi and Menette Shanthikusum.
- A deserving student coming to YMCA Moratuwa was given Rs.1,000/-each in January/Feb./March 2015 for educational purposes, sponsored by YM Deepthi Perera.
- Dry rations worth Rs.2,000/- to a very poor family in Moratuwa was sponsored by PRD Godfrey and Mnt .Suranganie in January.
- **Rs.8,000/-** worth of milk powder packets were given to **The Blessings Child Care Moratumulla** and a sick child during the months of February and March by YM Godfrey and Mnt.Surangani.
- **Rs.500/-** was donated to the Sunshine Home Moratuwa to buy clothes by YM Anil and Mnt.Srikanthi.
- Mnt.Srikanthi donated **Rs.1,000/-** to Princess f Wales' College, Moratuwa to be given to a deserving school girl.

Special Projects

Donated and installed an instant water heater to the Sarvodaya Childrens Orphanage at Lunawa, Moratuwa. The cost of the project – Rs.24,339/-.

04 children were provided books and other items in the book lists sponsored by YM Ranaraj and Mnt.Mystica. The cost of the project – **Rs.8,480/-**.

We had a very successful Sing a Long on 07th February 2015 to raise funds for our Projects. Some of the pictures of the event is shown at Picture Gallery (last page). Congratulations and a big thank you to all the members of the Club for their unstinted support.

YMCA Liaison

Nine of our members serve on the Board of YMCA Moratuwa including the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

All 09 members are actively involved in the activities of YMCA and Chairs most of the Committees such as Building , Financial, Membership, International Projects, Vocational Training and Human Rights/Legal Aid & Childrens' Committee. All these Committees meet monthly or weekly.

In addition to these some of them serve in the National Council of YMCAs.

International Relations

We received a news letter from Brother Club of Charlotte Town and we also sent our newsletter to all our Brother Clubs – Denmark (Aars), India (Gobicettipalayam) and Australia (Adelaide)and Nairobi (Thika).

Funny Quotes

Ladies, Have a Good Laugh

You may have seen some of these before. Enjoy. Ladies, My sincere apologies. I did not mean to hurt anyone, but to remind the facts to Gentlemen.

**They say that marriage makes a man dizzy, and it's true.
As soon as I got a wife, I lost my balance at the bank.**

**Men want 3 qualities in wives: Economist in kitchen, artist in home & devil in bed.
But they get artist in kitchen, devil in home & economist in Bed.**

Q: Why do women live longer than men?

A: Shopping never causes heart attacks, but paying the bill does!

Before marriage: Roses are red, sky is blue. U r beautiful, I luv u.

After marriage: Roses are dead, I'm blue. U r my headache, one day I'll kill u.

Getting married is very much like going to a restaurant with friends.

You order what you want, and then when you see what the other person has, you wish you had ordered that.

Man: Is there any way for long life?

Dr : marriage

Man: Will it help?

Dr : No, but the thought of long life will never come.

Why do couples hold hands during their wedding?

It's a formality just like two boxers shaking hands before the fight begins!

Wife: Darling, today is our anniversary, what should we do?

Husband: Let us stand in silence for 2 minutes.

What did the gangster's son tell his dad when he failed his examination?

'Dad, they questioned me for 3 hours, but I never told them anything!!'

What's the difference between people who pray in church and those who pray in casinos?

The ones in the casinos are serious.

When I was young I used to pray for a bike, then I realized that God doesn't work that way, so I stole a bike and prayed for forgiveness.

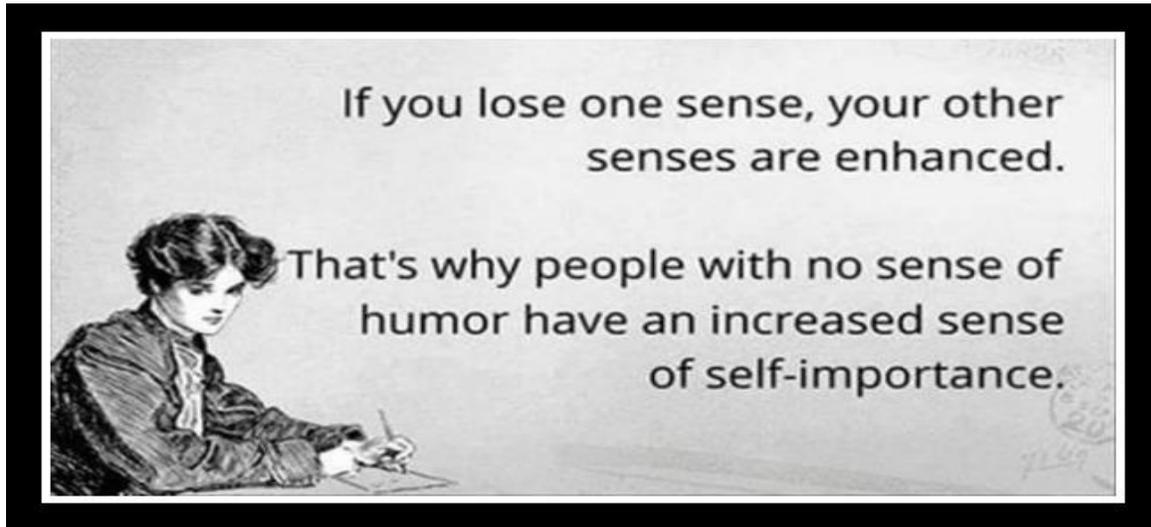
A little boy went up to his father and asked :

'Dad, where did all of my intelligence come from?' His father replied:

'Well, son, you must have gotten it from your mother, because I still have mine.'

Jimmy's teacher sent a note home to his mother, saying :
'Jimmy seems to be a very bright boy, but spends too much of his time thinking about girls.'

The mother wrote back the next day: 'If you find a solution, please advise. I have the same problem with his father!'



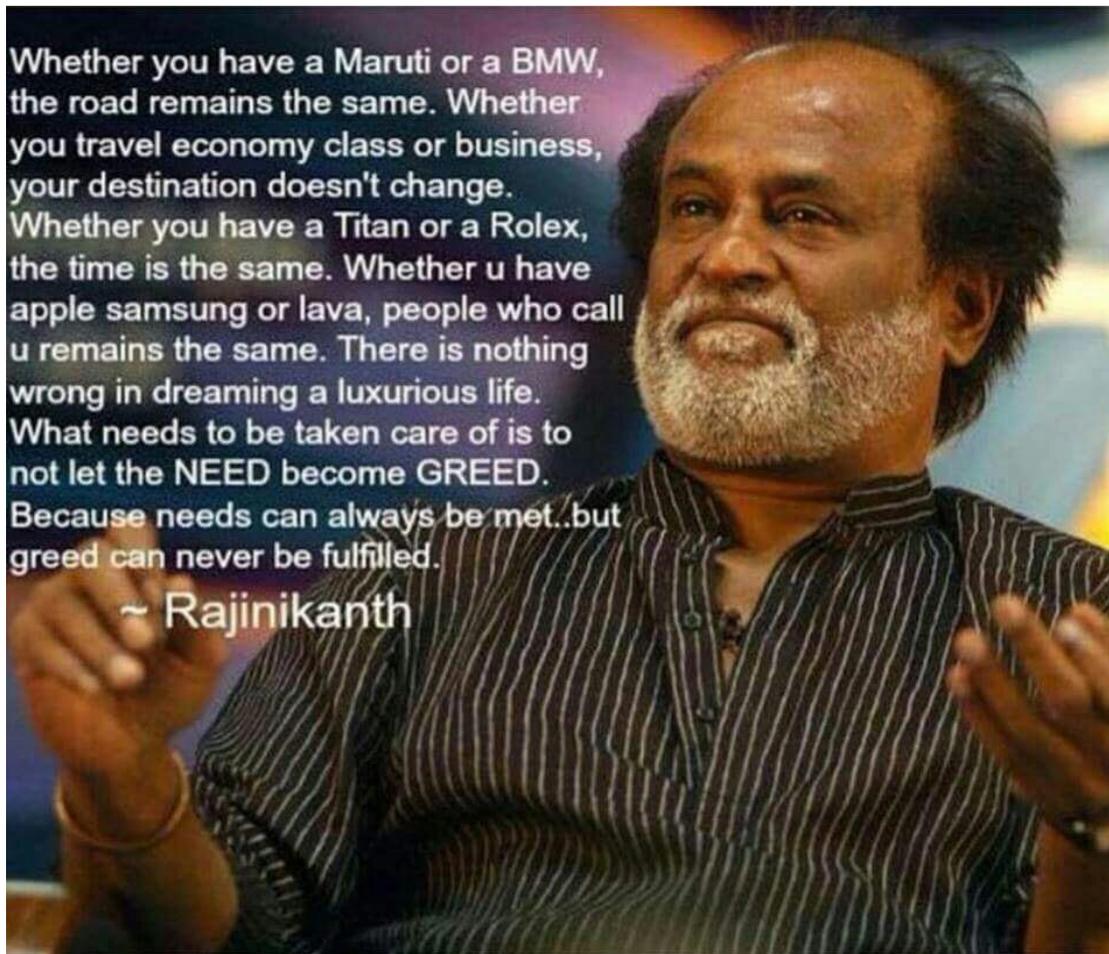
Wedding Photograph of the Year



Toilet signage at hotel



Food for your thoughts



Picture Gallery

The following are some of the Pictures of the Projects carried out by us from January to March 2015.

Donation of a Water Heater to Sarvodaya Childrens Home in January 2015



Pictures of our Sing A Long – The Fund Raiser on 7th Feb. 2015



Singing of Y's Men Pledge by Members of the Club



Singing by the Guests



Table occupied by IPRDs Wife Jeyam & family

YM Errol, President -Young Moratuwa and his wife Lilanthi holding the tickets for the draw by PRD Godfrey