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“Before the Resurrection of Christ, the Holy Spirit came upon individuals only on certain occasions for special tasks. But now, after the Resurrection, Christ through the Holy Spirit dwells in the heart of every believer to give us supernatural power in living our daily lives.”

Rev. Billy Graham

Pakistan Called a State Sponsor of Terrorism



Citizenship and Immigration Minister, Chris Alexander

Canada and its allies must take a united front against Pakistan because it is a state sponsor of terrorism that threatens world security, says Citizenship and Immigration Minister Chris Alexander. Alexander, a former ambassador to Afghanistan, said the fight against the Taliban and groups like al-Qaeda will never be won in Afghanistan alone because it is a “cross-border conflict” supported by the Pakistan government.

Speaking on a special edition of CBC’s Power & Politics about Canada’s legacy in Afghanistan, Alexander said the world has only caught up with that reality in recent years, despite long-standing warnings from Afghanistan that Pakistan is a big part of the problem.

“This is state sponsorship of terrorism. It’s covert. It’s been denied. Not even Western analysts agree that it’s happening on the scale we know it to be happening,” he told host Evan Solomon.

Alexander, who authored the book *The Long Way Back: Afghanistan’s Quest for Peace*, called for continued support for Afghans who are fighting against the Taliban and for security and democracy as Canada and other countries wrap up prolonged military missions. But he also urged allies to confront Pakistan.

“We need to have a united front in dealing with Pakistan. The civilian government there doesn’t control

“Canada will continue to work with “the people of Pakistan” and allies to help the country address the challenges it faces...”

military policy, strategic policy. The army and the intelligence service do,” he said. “And they have denied the obvious, postponed this reckoning for years with so many terrorist groups, including al-Qaeda, that are doing so much harm around the world, still based in that country, this should be a priority for everyone.”

Alexander said the international community must address the Pakistan situation urgently because it’s “all connected” with other trouble spots — linked to Syria and Iraq because so many militants and jihadis are going there, and also linked to foreign policy on Russia.

Pakistan’s tribal region along the border of Afghanistan has long been

labeled a “haven for terrorists.” But Alexander said even people within Pakistan aren’t aware of the degree of official involvement. He cited a recent New York Times article (censored in Pakistan) that focused on Pakistan’s relationship with al-Qaeda and its knowledge of Osama bin Laden hiding within its borders.

“The civilian government will say we don’t control it, it happens behind closed doors in places run by the army, run by the ISI (Pakistan’s Inter-Services Intelligence). The Pakistani population

doesn’t know this is happening. But it has to be said. You cannot, they have not, trained, financed, equipped the Taliban on this scale without the institutional involvement with these groups. And they are negotiating with the Taliban — trying to lie down with the lion inside Pakistan in spite of all the loss of life inside Pakistan. This has got to change.”

Former Canadian diplomat David Mulroney, who served as deputy

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Update on Kashmala Munawar:

In our previous issue we reported on Kashmala Munawar – the 16 year old teenager who was critically injured while leaving All Saints Anglican Church in Peshawar on Sunday 22 September 2013 when two Taliban suicide bombers, dressed as police detonated two ‘dirty bombs’ loaded with shrapnel.



Kashmala with Children First staff members, Anne Esposito and Marina Te Maro.

Kashmala, a high-achieving student sustained horrific leg injuries, eventually having her right leg amputated, and under threat of losing her left leg due to infection.

A charitable organisation in Pakistan intervened and teamed up with the Melbourne-based group, Australian Association of Pakistani Christians (AAPC).

It was clear that it was necessary to evacuate Kashmala to a country like Australia that could provide world-class treatment. Medical treatment, equipment and prosthesis were beyond the financial capacity of Kashmala’s family. Kashmala has had a further assessment with her surgeon

Associate Professor Leo Donnan, and one of his colleagues... two of Australia’s top orthopaedic surgeons.

Her first surgery is planned for 3 May where surgeons will operate to enable her missing leg to be fitted with a prosthetic. The next stage will be to repair damage to her injured leg. Please pray for her as she is on a long journey, certainly till the end of this year.

Children First is a Melbourne based not-for-profit charity. Their mission is to transform the lives of children who need them most by giving hope, exceptional care and pathways to a brighter future. The Foundation has a proud history built on the belief that excellent medical care is a basic right of every child regardless of where they are born.

Kashmala is accompanied by her mother Maryam who is also staying at Children First’s Rehabilitation Farm. Her pre-and post-operative care will be provided at this farm in Kilmore East outside Melbourne.



Canada's Citizenship Reforms - How They Could Affect you!

The federal government is introducing a series of sweeping reforms to the Citizenship Act that are designed to reduce processing times, tighten residency requirements and crack down on fraud — measures that will make it tougher for many to become Canadian.

“Our government is strengthening the values of Canadian citizenship,” Chris Alexander, the minister of citizenship and immigration, said.

“Canadians understand that citizenship should not be simply a passport of

“Our government is strengthening the values of Canadian citizenship,”

convenience. Citizenship is a pledge of mutual responsibility and a shared commitment to values rooted in our history.”

Here are five important proposed changes:

1. It will take longer. Under new legislation, permanent residents will have to have a “physical presence” in Canada for four years out of six years, compared to the current three out of four years.
2. Tougher language requirements. More applicants will have to meet language requirements and pass a test, with the government expanding its age range for those requirements to those aged 14-64, compared to the current range of 18-54.
3. Citizenship can be revoked. The government would have the power to strip citizenship from dual nationals who are members of an armed

force or groups engaged in armed conflict with Canada, and from those convicted of terrorism, treason or spying. Criminal charges abroad come into play. The new legislation would bar people with foreign criminal charges and convictions from getting citizenship. Current laws only bar citizenship for those with certain domestic criminal charges and convictions.

4. Fast-track for those who join the military. Permanent residents who are members of the Canadian Armed Forces will have a fast-track to citizenship.

Information provided by Canadian Immigration and Legal Services. For more information on these and other immigration matters, please call Alyson Alfred, Certified Immigration Consultant at 416-786-1406

Pakistan Called a State Sponsor of Terrorism

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minister in charge of the Afghanistan Task Force overseeing co-ordination of Canada's engagement in Afghanistan, said that if Alexander's remarks represent the government's official position, they must be followed up with “real measures” and a “much tougher stance” against Pakistan.

“Tomorrow can't be business as usual for our High Commission in Islamabad. We can't have the same kind of co-operation with Pakistan,” he said. “And we have to make very certain that players like the Canadian Forces and our security establishment aren't having one set of conversations with the Pakistanis while our diplomats are having another. We have to get really serious.”

Roland Paris, university research chair in International Security and Governance at the University of Ottawa, agreed that Alexander's statement has significant implications for foreign policy.

“If this is Canadian government policy that has implications for what we are doing. And if it's Canadian government policy, the actions need to be brought into line with that policy. If it isn't Canadian government policy, then minister Alexander should reconsider those words,” he said.

CBC News asked Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird's office if this represents Canada's official government position, but the query was referred back to Alexander's office.

His press secretary Alexis Pavlich said Alexander's views are informed by his years working in the region and writing his book. He was repeating his view that there is support for extremism from “elements of the Pakistani state,” in response to questions asking his “personal opinion” on Afghan-Pakistan affairs.

“It is not just that these terrorist groups continue to operate from Pakistani territory: they also enjoy official, albeit covert, sanction and support from some within Pakistan's state apparatus,” Pavlich said. “Terrorist attacks underscore the need for swift and determined action by the Government of Pakistan against terrorist groups that prey on innocents in Pakistan.”

Canada will continue to work with “the people of Pakistan” and allies to help the country address the challenges it faces, Pavlich added.

❖ Profile

Frederick Rafiq

Frederick Rafiq was one of Pakistan's leading bansuri (flute) players. A talented and insightful musician, Rafiq brought his flute to life as he played a wide repertoire of classical, religious and other genres of Indian music.

Born in 1927, Rafiq started learning playing the bansuri when he was barely 12 years. Among his dying mother's last wishes was that her son would learn the bansuri. By his late teens Frederick Rafiq had mastered the bansuri .It is not clear whether he took formal lessons but his command of Indian classical music was unparalleled at the time.

Rafiq joined the Royal Navy as a cadet at the age of 18 and remained with the Navy till the Indo-Pakistani partition. Shortly afterwards he married and became the patriarch of a musically talented family of a daughter and three sons .Today Rafiq's sons are talented internationally renowned musicians in their own rights.

As Rafiq's musical talent came to be recognized in professional circles he received a number of offers to provide music for movies, radio and television. He remained humble to his own roots and maintained his talent as a hobby. In later years he joined the now defunct PIA Arts Academy under the internationally renowned actor and director Zia Mohiyuddin.

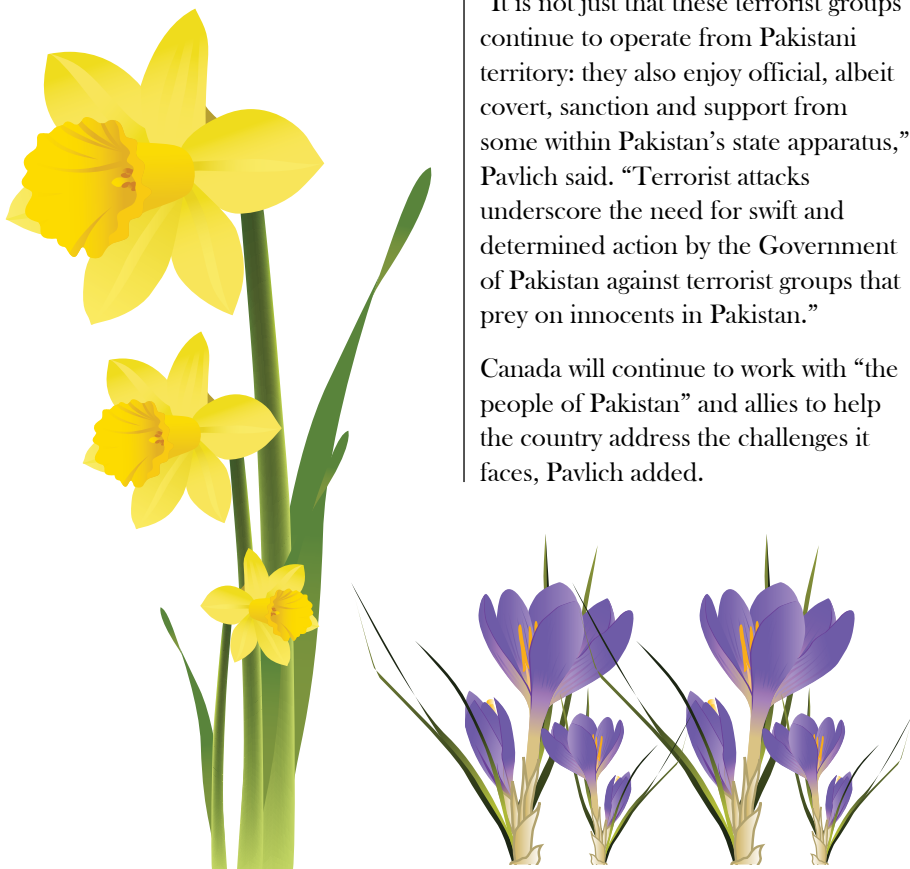
Rafiq produced a number of recordings – mainly of Christian songs and ghazals. He would often be found playing



Mr. Frederick Rafiq

on radio, television or conventions supporting Christian events like Christmas and Easter. His recording of zaboors- Rooh ke Phool (Flowers of the Soul) remains just as popular today as it was when first released decades ago. Frederick Rafiq passed away in 1996, (just two months short of his 70th birthday) but his enchanting music will live in our hearts forever.

“...he received a number of offers to provide music for movies, radio and television.”



❖ Profile

Daniel Austin

Brigadier (Retired) Daniel Austin was born in Christian Town Sialkot in 1935. A student of the famous CTI School in Sialkot, he excelled in a number of sports like athletics, track and field and basketball. Throughout his academic life he showed a keen interest in basketball and was captain of his school, college and university teams.

After graduation, Austin joined the Pakistan Army. He graduated from the Command and Staff College in Quetta and went on to participate in several other command and tactical courses both within the country and abroad. During his military career he commanded a Cavalry Regiment and served as Director Budget for the Pakistan Army. Austin retired from active service in 1988 with the rank of Brigadier. During his career he received the Tamgha-e-Basalat, Sitara-e- Harb and the Tamgha-e-Jang. He was also awarded the President’s Pride of Performance Medal for his contribution to the field of sports.

Daniel Austin always had a passion for sport. As a player of international repute, he captained the Pakistan Basketball Team. Under his leadership the team won silver medals in international championships in Tehran and in Lahore. He was also a member of the national Basketball Elevens which played test matches against Iran and took part in the Quadrangular Championships in Sri Lanka in 1957.

Daniel Austin was also a brilliant sports organizer and event planner who successfully coordinated the National Boxing Championships in 1985 and the Pakistan-Holland hockey test matches in Islamabad. He was also the Chief Coordinator of the 4th SAF Games held in Islamabad in 1989. Austin also represented Pakistan on a number of international organizations and competitions. He was Pakistan’s deputy

chef de mission at the Asian Games held in Delhi in 1982. He also served as Vice President of the Pakistan Olympic Association, the Pakistan Amateur Wrestling Federation, Chair of the Defence Services Sports Board and Director General, Pakistan Sports Board.

His community involvement led him to serve on different boards and committees, including the Board of the Christian Study Centre and St. John’s High School in Rawalpindi. He also served as Administrator and CEO of the United Christian Hospital (UCH) Lahore between 1990 and 1997.

He was a dedicated husband to wife Olive, a loving father and a proud grandfather .A firm believer, he always quoted his own example of God’s miraculous works as he originated from humble beginnings but rose to heights of success. Always thanking God, he was recognized as a true Christian soldier within the ranks of the Pakistan Army.

Brigadier Austin’s services and contributions in the field of sports and his endeavors in promoting better



Daniel Austin

understanding through sports were greatly appreciated by relatives, friends, family and thousands of basketball fans in Pakistan and abroad. The fourth Kashmir Cup All Pakistan Basketball Championship was postponed for a month due to the death of Brigadier Austin.

Brigadier Daniel Austin passed away on 29 December 2013 and leaves behind his wife Olive, daughter Mehr, sons Farrukh, Khuram and four grandchildren.



Farzana Shariq

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❖ Profile

Zeeshan Labha Masih



Zeesham Labha Masih

Dedication and hard work is always rewarded and Zeeshan Labha Masih is living testimony to this claim. Masih, whose parents swept the streets for a living, has now become eligible to be appointed as a judge after successfully passing the Punjab Public Service Commission Exam.

A resident of Christian Colony Okara, Masih hails from a modest background but that did not deter his ambition. Masih stated that he was extremely grateful to God, his parents and his family for the unwavering support and belief in his abilities. His father Sardar Masih retired from Tehsil Council Okara a while ago but his mother, Fazila Bibi continues to work as a sanitary worker.

“I used to go to Sahiwal every day to prepare for my exam. After coming back home, I would give tuitions till late into the night,” he said. Masih stated that he was extremely grateful to God, his parents and his family for the unwavering support and belief in his abilities.“He has worked day and night for this. He barely had time for himself or the family but now all his hard work has paid off,” said his wife, Arzoo Masih.

The entire family is thrilled at Masih’s achievement.“We are very proud that our son has got an education towards such an honorable job. It means all our hard work has paid off,” said Fazila Bibi.

The entire Christian community joined Masih in his celebration. He is now considered a role model for those who dream of changing their circumstances.



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❖ Guest Editorial

Don Joshua

I live 7 miles away from the World Vision office and each Tuesday for the past 11 years, I have been making this journey. It is a short journey because I drive but I am glad for the opportunity to come here. It gives me the opportunity to meet some Godly people who have helped me along my spiritual journey.

Sometimes they have been accidental meetings, as when I bump into someone in the corridor or in the elevator; and we later get into a discussion about things that matter to us. Other times it has been deliberate such as when I attend a Devotional meeting or come to Chapel. I consider myself extremely lucky to have met some wonderful people, who have helped me grow as a Christian. Many times people I meet will thank me for being a volunteer. Actually we volunteers need to thank you. Coming to work here is as much a blessing to us, as it may be to you.

Every time I walk into this building, I thank the Lord for the privilege of coming here. The warm, cheerful greeting that I get is a great way to start the day. A wonderful lady, whom I shall not name for fear of embarrassing her, has been to India and Haiti and other troubled places on behalf of World Vision Canada. When I chat with her, I wonder how she can see all the sadness and distress and still continue to function so well at the office. She epitomises for me what Jesus said in Matt chap 25 vs. 40, “Whatever you do to the least of them, you do unto me.” Meeting her uplifts my spirits and strengthens my faith.

The other thing that uplifts my spirits is the music at Chapel. I am impressed at the variety of people who lead the singing and their talent. Each group brings a special flavour and the joy and enthusiasm is so infectious. I enjoy singing myself but I am what someone once referred to as a “Prison Singer”. I don’t have the key and I am usually behind a few bars.

At chapel too, I have heard many good speakers who have had a positive influence on my life, such as: Tony Campolo, who is both humorous and cerebral; and the late Ken McMillan, who was one of my favourite preachers. He presented us with gems of wisdom in well-chosen words and often spoke without any notes.

Another one is the author Philip Yancey, whose books are as interesting as the title he chooses for them. In one of his books, he writes about a certain kind of person, who says, “I like committing sins. God likes forgiving them. Really the world is admirably arranged”. This is from his book entitled “What is so amazing about Grace”.

I cannot help thinking that in a perfect world – where there were no man-made or natural disasters – the real sign of

progress for an organization like World Vision, would be a dwindling number of children in the world who needed support. But that is unlikely because as it says in the good book, “we will always have the poor with us” – and while the rich get richer the poor get children. To reach out to these children, World Vision has this office and many more, which is a blessing to those of us who volunteer with an organization that does so much good around the world.

I currently work in the Planned Giving area but 11 years ago when I began work here it was in the warehouse on the 1st floor. Just outside of the warehouse, on the right hand side as you walk out, is the department that is called Fulfillment. I find this title very amusing because it has such a note of finality. But at the end of the day when I leave this place of work and worship, that is how I feel, FULFILLED.

None of this would have happened if I had not made that 7-mile journey from my home each week for my volunteer work; and met the people who helped me grow as a Christian. I liken this to another 7-mile walk that is mentioned in the Bible – at the end of St. Luke’s Gospel.

Three days after the crucifixion, two friends were walking back from the city of Jerusalem to their village of Emmaus, a distance of 7 miles. One can assume that in those days the roads were not paved and there were no streetlights. The two friends were trying to get home before dusk.

Suddenly a stranger locks-step with them and notices their downcast looks. He quotes from the Scriptures to assuage their concerns and assures them that all will be well. The two friends felt that their hearts were burning within them while He talked; and so they invited him to spend the night with them when they reached Emmaus.

Not until He blessed the food and vanished from their sight, did they know that it was Jesus who had walked along with them. Then something wonderful happened. They were filled with joy because they knew that Jesus was alive. They wanted to share the good news with the other disciples.

Having met Jesus, they became Energized, Enthusiastic, and Evangelical, and decided to walk back to Jerusalem right away, forgetting about their tiredness, their hunger, the dusty road, the darkness of the night, or the long walk ahead,

But how long was that walk in the dark?

To put 7 miles into perspective consider this. 60 years ago an Olympic runner named ROGER BANNISTER, ran the mile in just under 4 minutes. That is just too fast for most of us. Instead of running, if we walked a mile it would probably take us at least 15 to

20 minutes; and a journey of 7 miles would probably take us up to 2 hours. But the distance and time of day did not deter the two disciples. They had just met Jesus and they were filled with joy and energy. And here is the thing!

When we are worried and need Jesus, we don’t have to go looking for Him. He will find us. As it says in the book of Ezekiel, chap 34: vs. 11, “I myself will search for my sheep and look after them.”

Meeting Jesus is a mountaintop experience but to reach the mountain we have to go on a journey. Jesus knows that we are like sheep and sometimes we get lost and find ourselves in the valley of despair. It is important to remember that it is in the valleys that we grow, because that is where the fertilizer is. We should learn to welcome the valley times and see the growth in character that comes from them.

Most of us are often beset with worries about things we cannot control. That is human nature. There is a story of a woman who came to her priest and said to him, “I have this big problem and I wish that I was worrying about it.” He asked her why? And she said, “Because when I worry about something, it never happens.”

Meeting Jesus will clear your doubts, lift your spirits, fill you with energy, and change your outlook. Often you may not know that the person who meets and talks with you is helping you to grow spiritually. Not everyone that we meet will have that effect; but most will, if we allow them. The vision of others can help us see our faith anew; and you never know whom you may meet when you reach out to someone.

Perhaps you will meet Jesus in the person who lock-steps with you in the parking lot, as you come into work in the morning; or the stranger you talk to in the line-up at the airport, on your way to a difficult part of the world; or the colleague who decides to join you for lunch in the cafeteria. God often finds a way of reaching into our lives, providing people and experiences to rescue us from our wilderness and strengthen our faith.

Our Spiritual Journey is never ending; and our growth as Christians is always a “work in progress”. But you can get rid of all your fears and worries, knowing that Jesus is near. You can be assured that He is closer than you think. The two disciples met JESUS on the road to Emmaus, because they were prepared to reach out to a stranger. Are you?



❖ Reflection

Unity is Golden

Amit Parasar

It never ceases to amaze me how hockey brings Canadians together. The gold medal game in Sochi had no shortage of moments to make all Canadians proud. We saw triumph in the face of adversity epitomized when Chris Kunitz scored the third goal of the game after sustaining a dangerous head-on impact with the boards in the second period. We saw humility in seamless teamwork from a group of individual stars, not least of whom was Sidney Crosby, Canada's golden boy, who scored his first goal of the tournament behind his teammate Jonathan Toews. Truly, it was a game that will be cherished in the memories of millions of Canadians for years to come.

The Olympic games are a paradox in that they bring countries together in the spirit of competition, something that could just as easily cause animosity and alienation. This phenomenon is due to the fact that the spirit of competition is tempered by the ideal of good sportsmanship and the honour and integrity that that ideal embodies.

Ideals are, for better or worse, powerful things. There are so many examples of differences in ideals causing tremendous carnage. The civil war in Syria, the protests in Ukraine, the sectarian violence in the Central African Republic (CAR), the civil unrest in Brazil and Thailand; tragically the list is far too long to catalogue in this article. To put it far more simply than it is, the world has got a lot of problems, a lot of lives are being lost because of them and differences in dearly held beliefs are what cause them.

“Every now and then, we're lucky enough to witness the impossible becoming possible.”

While a multitude of factors coalesce to develop conflicts like the ones I've listed, religion often takes a great deal of criticism because it is one of those deeply held beliefs that often causes horrors like what we see in CAR. It is a criticism that all religions are guilty of perpetuating, a criticism that people of all beliefs, Christian, Muslim, Hindu or atheist, must strive to discredit. This is a tall order considering the incredible power of hatred and its ability to grow stronger with each generation. The



Amit Parasar

horrible truth may be that such a goal is impossible to achieve.

Every now and then, we're lucky enough to witness the impossible becoming possible. In the Olympic games we see that the fear, hatred and resentment caused by conflict, intolerance and oppression can be counteracted by the ideal of mutual respect for others that is at the core of the Olympic spirit. Given the current global political climate, seeing this unifying ideal in action at the Olympic games is a much needed reminder that the worst of us drives us apart while the best of us brings us together.

During the course of the Olympics, all participating countries had the opportunity to rejoice together in celebration of the accomplishments of their athletes. If we are ever to achieve the impossible dream of peace, we need to remember that joy that only togetherness can produce, that excitement that you feel when the clock winds down and you get to raise your arms in unison with your compatriots to celebrate a common victory, one earned by a few for all to call their own.

A beautiful example of the unifying ideal of the Olympics was seen on Twitter after the gold medal hockey game when the hashtag #hardtotrashtalkCanada trended in Sweden and #hardtotrashtalkSweden trended in Canada.

Perhaps it's naïve to think that this ideal can somehow be extended to all of humanity that all human beings can somehow unite despite the inherent differences that make us human. But with so much at stake, perhaps we can all be so naïve, take this ideal to heart and do what we can to put it into action.

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Easter Poems

By Jaazem Isaac

شانِ کلوری

بوجھ میرے پاپ کا جب مجھ پہ بھاری ہو گیا
کلوری پر خود مسیحا، جاں نثاری ہو گیا

جب ہوا خاموش میری زندگانی کا دیا
روشنی بن کر لہو، یسوع کا طاری ہو گیا

ہو گیا سٹولی پہ خود یسوع فدا میرے لئے
میں گناہوں کے تلے جب غم سے زاری ہو گیا

قطرہ قطرہ خون کا، اُس کے بدن سے جو بہا
زندگی بن کر لہو وہ، مجھ میں جاری ہو گیا

ہو گیا تن من میرا، یسوع کے قدموں پر فدا
اس میں کیا شک ہے کہ میں اُس کا پُجاری ہو گیا

زندگی جازم کی ہے منسوب اُس کے نام سے
کلوری کی شان پر دل واری واری ہو گیا

اجازت زندگی دے دے، تو کر پہ چار یسوع کا
یہ جان و مال کیا ہے چیز، کل سنسار یسوع کا

بچکے گا ہر بشر اُس ناصری کی بارگاہوں میں
نمایاں سب ہمارا حال ہے اُس کی نگاہوں میں
ملا ہے مفت میں بخشش کا یہ شاہکار یسوع کا
یہ جان و مال کیا ہے چیز کل سنسار یسوع کا

اٹھا کر راتھ میں انجیل ہم دنیا میں جائیں گے
کلام حق سنائیں گے، شنایسوع کی گائیں گے
سجے گا ہر گلی بازار میں دربار یسوع کا
یہ جان و مال کیا ہے چیز کل سنسار یسوع کا

پیام زندگی یسوع، کلام زندگی یسوع
لکھا نس نس پہ جازم کی نظر زندگی یسوع
ملے گا ہر قدم پر یہ پیہ سالار یسوع کا
یہ جان و مال کیا ہے چیز کل سنسار یسوع کا

❖ Opinion

The Poster in the Subway

Rev. Gulzar Masih

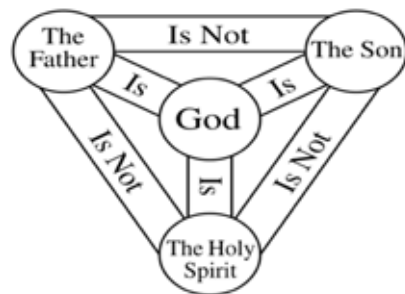
“Is Jesus Christ God”? The Quran and Bible say, “No”. This poster displayed prominently in the Dundas subway station urged me to respond to this false and ignorant claim. Here is the simple Bible –based proof that Jesus is God.

This article is based on knowledge acquired through school and university learning, numerous documents and books and devoted reading of The Holy Bible. I come from Pakistan, where I studied Islamiyat as a compulsory subject in school and read numerous books on Islam for personal learning.

As Christians, we believe that the Holy Bible is given by inspiration of God. The writers were inspired and moved by the Holy Spirit to write the very words of The Bible. God does not grant new revelations that are contrary or different or additional to inspired Biblical truth. We believe the Bible does not simply contain the Word of God, but is in reality, the complete revelation and very Word of God inspired by the Holy Spirit.

We believe the Godhead exists eternally in three persons; the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. These three are one God, having the same nature and attributes. The Father exists eternally. He is the Alpha and Omega, the Creator of heaven and earth and all creation. The Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal and only begotten Son of the

Father is true God and true Man. Jesus was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of Virgin Mary. The Holy Spirit is the



third person of the Holy Trinity. The Holy Spirit is God and possesses the attributes of the Deity.

Jesus Christ is God
The Bible is replete with this truth that Jesus and God are one

- Philippians 2:6 to 11 – Jesus was in the very nature of God
- John 10:30 – “ I and the Father are one”
- John 1: 1 and 14 – the Word was God
- John 1:14 – the Word was made flesh; we behold His glory as of the only begotten of the Father. He came from the Father, full of grace and truth
- John 14:6 – “ if you really knew me, you would know my Father as well”
- John 17:11 , 22 – and the true glory which You have given me I have given them, that they may be one as we are one”



“Is Jesus God?” A billboard posted at Dundas Subway Station in Toronto asks.

- John 1:18 and John 5:18 and 8:3
- Galatians 4:4
- Hebrew 2:14

Jesus is the second person of the Holy Trinity, as shown in the “The Shield of the Trinity”

There are prophecies in the Old Testament

- Psalm 110: 1- 2 – The Lord said unto my Lord, sit Thou at my right hand.
- Isaiah 9:6 - ... and he will be called Wonderful counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace
- Isaiah 7:14 – ... call him Immanuel ; God with us

His Disciples and others called Him God

- John 20:26 – Saint Thomas said to Him; “my Lord and my God”
- Mathew 14:33 – those in the boat worshiped him saying “ you are the Son of God”
- Romans 9:5 – St Paul called Christ God
- Mathew 2:11 - The Magi worshipped Him
- Titus 2 :13 - our great God and saviour Jesus Christ

continued on page 7

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The Poster in the Subway

continued from page 6

- 1 John 5:20 – He is true God and eternal life
- The church is called Church of God: 1 Corinthians 1:3, 1 Corinthians 10:32, 1 Corinthians 11:16Corthians 15:9

Jesus has attributes of God

- Jesus is self –existent. John 1:4 – In Him was life and the life was the light of man
- Jesus is the resurrection. John 11:25 ‘ Jesus said “ I am the resurrection and the life”
- Jesus is Omnipresent. Mathew 28:20 ... “and lo I am with you always, even unto the end of the world ” Mathew 18:20 ... “there I am in the midst of them”
- Jesus is Omniscient. John 6:64 – Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray Him.
- Jesus is Omnipotent. Revelation 1:8 “I am Alpha and Omega” Luke 4:39-41 He had power to heal. Luke 7:14, 15 He raised the dead. Mathew 8:26-27 the elements obeyed Him.
- Jesus is Immutable. Hebrew 13:8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today and forever.
- Jesus forgives sins. Luke 7:48-50 and Mark 2:5
- Jesus is the Saviour. 1 Peter 3:18, 2 Corinthians 5:21
- Angels worship Jesus. Hebrew 1:6

References from the Quran

- Jesus is called Spirit of God. Isa Rooh Allah Quran 4:171 in the Quran
- The Word’s name will be Christ Jesus. Quran 3:45 Behold! the angels said: “O Mary! Allah giveth thee glad tidings of a Word [kalimatin] from Him: his name will be Christ Jesus, the son of Mary, held in honour in this world and the Hereafter and of (the company of) those nearest to Allah.

When we are faced with challenges, false claims and doctrines we need to approach them with grace, dignity and a message of peace which we find in our Lord Jesus Christ. For it is only through love that we can change

Gandhi said “Be the change that you wish to see in the world.” Let us learn, admit and reaffirm that Jesus is God in our lives so that we can bring that change to others.

The Rev. Gulzar Masih is an ordained minister based in Toronto .He can be reached via e-mail at: edgargulzar7@gmail.com . The opinions in this column solely reflect those of the writer and not necessarily those of this publication.



❖ Thinking Out Loud

A life filled with joy and peace

By Andrew Latorcai

We understand our life to be a gift of God’s grace. Each day is out of the hand of our heavenly Father. Attached with this is also a great responsibility, especially for those professing their faith as Christians. It is our responsibility to preserve life and to help ourselves and others prosper spiritually and naturally. Our responsibility, out of body and soul, is to live a life of worship and praise to the honor and glory of God out of a thankful heart.

God has given mankind his free will. For some there is a lot of freedom, such as we who live in Canada and for others, such as many of our brothers and sisters in Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, only a little. I have experienced this many times in my travels to South Asia between 1993 and 2011 for the New Apostolic Church. In these four countries, we have tens and hundreds of thousands of members. I have to admit, I admired and still admire how our brothers and sisters live and profess their faith under sometimes very difficult circumstances even under the threat of harm and death. I was always able to come home to Canada after a few weeks but we always left these souls behind, praying that they may keep their faith. We might compare this that they also go through their own “Good Friday” of injustice, trial and tribulation. But, they stay strong in their conviction even when denying their faith would be so much easier. It is easy to believe and profess when we are surrounded by like-believers but what happens when we stand alone? Do we oscillate with the waves and trends of what surrounds us or do we stand strong for the Lord, His Work and our salvation?

We do not always understand God’s Will for us but we entrust ourselves into His Will and believe that what He permits is proving our loyalty, commitment and devotion to Him and what we believe. In other words, no matter in how easy or difficult the circumstances we find ourselves, God sees our attitude to life in our response and reaction to these very same circumstances. One said, “10% of our life depends on our actual circumstances but 90% depends on our attitude and how we react to them.”

This reminds me of a Christian sister who lives in Pakistan, where it is very difficult for her to live her life of faith, where there is very little religious freedom. Recently she was offered a promotion at her place of work with the condition that she converts from her faith to the faith that was widely exercised and represented in her workplace. She didn’t answer right away but went home and returned shortly thereafter with the appreciative

response towards the offer but that she could not fulfill the condition. The response from her superiors was one of shock and disbelief, possibly even ridicule. Some time went by and she received a telephone call from the director of the organization offering her the job. She asked, “...but I thought the condition was to convert?” The director answered, “Yes, that is true, but when we realized how convinced and committed you are to your faith and that nothing was going to convince you otherwise, we said to ourselves, “This is the type of worker we want and need in this position. One who stands her ground and does not waver. One who is devoted and steadfast.” What a joyful experience of faith for our sister! How would we have reacted under the same circumstances?

A life of joy and peace is what any human being would desire. We must continually realize and recognize that our time of life is a gift of God’s Grace and Love. Our reaction must be to use the time wisely and in nobility live our life as is becoming one of God’s very own. Joy and peace are a result of God’s contribution as well as what is produced out of our response to this contribution and how we react to the situations of life in which we find ourselves. In other words, filled with Holy Spirit, do we have the correct godly point-of-view or do we act as would be expected in our every-day society, as our neighbour?

I think of the example of nature. A tree takes the carbon dioxide from the air (something harmful or not good) and converts it into something good, namely oxygen, from which all life benefits. This is similar in our spiritual life. The carbon dioxide of the time in which we live could be our burdens, disabilities, illness, financial status, the spirit of dissatisfaction and criticism, selfishness, and so on. We as a “tree of life” need to convert this into spiritual oxygen, from which all life around us benefits. This oxygen can be compared to joy, peace, thankfulness, reconciliation,

celebration of life, praise to God, generosity of spirit in sharing our love for God and our neighbour. When we exercise our faith, belief, our hope and expectation and preparation for the Lord’s Return, then we can always be those that take something “bad” and turn it into something “good”. We decide our reaction and response. Let us absorb the “bad” and turn it into something “good” rather than making matters even worse. This is the noble conduct that God expects of His Own. Not to react as the world expects but to conduct ourselves as God desires of us. This is possible when we remain in love with our Lord Jesus Christ and our heavenly Father. In other words, remain faithful to the commandment of love to God and our neighbour. This is possible when we use all that God has given us to enhance our own life but also the lives of others.

This also demonstrates the full employment of our free will to do good in life. This expresses a final point. This is all possible through the power in the resurrection of Christ. Not through our own will or that we have earned or deserve something good, never mind our eternal future. If we rely on the law, justice and the truth, we would all be condemned. Grace and eternal life are found within the Christ’s victory over sin, death, hell, and the grave. Our faith and belief in Christ, through his living apostles today, is the only way possible to salvation and remains the ultimate freedom. This is all provided through grace undeserved. Humbleness is the required attitude. Grace is recognized through humbleness and through humbleness, new grace is granted. Let us humbly live our life in recognizing the great gift of life and act accordingly. This will draw God’s grace that will lead us to eternal freedom and eternal life.

Andrew Latorcai is District Elder of the New Apostolic Church in Brampton

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❖ Movie Review

Noah: a movie of courage, faith and hope

Starring Russell Crowe and Jennifer Connelly



Russel Crow

How would you feel if you thought you heard God telling you he was going to destroy every living thing on earth with a great flood? Except he wanted you to build a boat to survive the tumult with a few relatives and a slew of creatures.

Would you jump at the challenge? Run and hide? Ask - as Bill Cosby did in his classic comedy routine portraying Noah - “Right! Who is this really?”

Perhaps you’ll sense how the biblical Noah felt. Paramount Pictures and director/co-writer Darren Aronofsky brings Noah to the big screen in North America and worldwide throughout late March and April. The cast includes Russell Crowe in the title role, Jennifer Connelly, Emma Watson and Anthony Hopkins.

With breathtaking cinematography, this film imagines some intense struggles for Noah and his family. We see sorrow

for lost masses, interpersonal conflicts, and practical realities of living on a creature-packed craft.

Taking Liberties

Paramount says Noah’s story “inspired” the film, but that “artistic license has been taken.” Too much license, feel some. Readers of the biblical Noah story won’t find there, for instance, the film’s multi-armed fallen angels, its pronounced environmentalist message, or hordes of people fighting to board the ark.

The biblical account is short - mostly Genesis 6-9 - with little detail about ark life. So, yes, the filmmakers took liberties - many. Aronofsky recently told The Atlantic he views the story “as poetry and myth and legend” that helps us understand the world and ourselves.

But the essential framework of the biblical flood story - human evil, divine judgment, hope and salvation - remains in Noah. Consider these facets of that story and their modern implications.

Human Evil; Divine Judgment

Genesis says humanity was a mess: “The Lord observed the extent of human wickedness on the earth, and he saw that everything they thought or imagined was consistently and totally evil. It broke his heart.”

Human corruption prompted him to “destroy every living thing.” But “Noah was a righteous man, [who] walked in close fellowship with God.” God told



Russel Crow and Jennifer Connelly

him to build a large boat, specifying precise dimensions and design.

Filmmakers took pains to follow biblical specs for their ark. The production designer had many ideas for the ark’s appearance, but Aronofsky, who is Jewish, insisted, “No, the measurements are right there.”

Salvation, Hope, Promise

Noah built his ark and took aboard his wife, their three sons with their wives, plus pairs of animals, birds and crawling creatures. Elaborate computer-generated imagery portrays the animals for film.

Rain poured, underground water erupted, and floodwaters covered the earth. Every human, bird and land animal not in the ark perished. The waters receded, the earth dried, and the ark inhabitants disembarked. God promised never again to destroy the earth by flood, offering the rainbow as a pledge reminder.

Faith; Future

If you attend the film, read the biblical account first, then again after the

screening. Noah’s story has much for a 21st-Century audience, including two nuggets about faith and the future.

The New Testament lauds Noah for his faith. He was not perfect. “Wickedness is in all of us,” he tells his wife in the film. His own drunkenness - depicted in the film - led to embarrassment and family conflict. But his faith in God mattered.

Concerning the future, Jesus indicated his second coming would be “like it was in Noah’s day” with people carrying on their routines and unaware of impending peril. “You also must be ready all the time,” he continued, “for the Son of Man will come when least expected.”

Rated PG-13 for “violence, disturbing images and brief suggestive content”

❖ Profile

Rosemary Mushtaq

Rosemary Mushtaq is a Pakistani singer who has appeared on two reality programs. She was first known for her appearance on the Pak-Indo reality show Chhote Ustaad where she finished in fourth position. Rose is a trained classical singer who hails from a non-musical background. Currently she is one of the finalists of Pakistani reality singing competition Pakistan Idol.

Rosemary Mushtaq was born in a Christian family in Karachi, Pakistan. At the age of seven she sought music training in the classical genre. With the support of her father she has taken part in reality shows and music competitions at the regional, national and international level.

Rosemary is perhaps best known for her appearance on the reality show Chhote Ustaad. This is a singing contest in which ten contestants from Pakistan and ten contestants from India compete for a title in the form of a pair with one person from Pakistan and another from India. The show was judged by Rahat Fateh Ali Khan and Sonu Nigam. Rose was paired with Shyamantan and eliminated on 5 November 2010, finishing in fourth position.

Mary auditioned for Pakistan Idol via Clear Last Chance Auditions . She is currently a finalist among the top 6. She is the youngest of all contestants in Idol. She has been heavily praised by judges and the audience.



Rosemary Mushtaq

Preparation for OPS Jobs

Advice from a hiring manager

David Tallan

It seems like I've been doing a lot interviewing recently: for positions on my team, helping other managers and a day interviewing Ontario Internship program applicants. It's got me thinking about how people prepare for and answer interview questions. I'm sharing my thoughts here in case anyone finds it useful. As a hiring manager, what I want is the best possible picture of a candidate's knowledge, skills and experience. If a candidate isn't fully showing what they have to offer, it increases the chance that I'll hire someone who may have less but is better at showing it. And that isn't good for either of us. So here are some tips to help you show your best side.

First, a word about the process:

Hiring in the OPS is pretty structured and there are plenty of guidelines to help ensure fairness. It all starts with the job description. And the root of the job description is the section that outlines the duties: what the hired person will actually be doing. There is also a section that outlines the qualifications needed (skills, knowledge, experience). Each of these is generally tied to the duties. So you get something like: Duty: write business cases; Skill: Good written communication skills in order to write business cases.

Once the hiring manager has the job description he or she needs to pull together the selection criteria and the job ad. These join the job description as key elements of the Job Information Package for recruitment. In the selection criteria the hiring manager will pull out a handful of different qualifications that the candidates will be rated against and percentage scores (adding to 100) that show the relative importance of each. All of these criteria have to come from the job description.

The qualifications that he or she is looking for will also appear in the job ad, along with a summary of the key job duties and some fluffy words meant to attract good candidates. The duties in the job ad also need to be traceable to the job description.

Then comes the evaluation methodologies. Notice plural. They recommend at least three. Interviewing is often just one of them (albeit an important one). All of the interview questions and other evaluation methods need to be directly tied to the selection criteria and weighted to match. This brings us to tip one:

Tip 1: Everything you are judged on is in the job ad.

Looking at the "Duties" section is useful. The more that you can show you have done the same or similar work, the better.

But absolutely critical is the "Qualifications" section. This is the most important information you have going into an interview. It's like a summary of the most important parts of the job

description, which is sure to include the selection criteria. I generally break these down into three categories:

1. "Academic knowledge" (knowing about something): e.g. "Demonstrated knowledge of license and registration requirements for co-operatives, credit unions and caisses populaires and insurance companies. Demonstrated knowledge of accounting standards and practices in these sectors"
2. "Practical knowledge" (knowing how to do something specific to a field): e.g. "Knowledge of internet and intranet design, development and management methods"
3. "Skills" (knowing how to do something more generic): e.g. "Excellent team leadership and project management skills. Very good interpersonal, customer service, consensus-building and consultation skills."

Different kinds of qualifications may lend themselves to different kinds of questions. Preparing for the interview is generally anticipating these questions and preparing answers. For example:

Tip 2: Prepare some stories.

Asking for stories is very common in OPS interviews, especially useful to get at practical knowledge, skills and experience but also sometimes used to get at academic knowledge in use. You often see them in the format "Provide an example of a time when you..." Make sure you have a story for all of the qualifications listed. Generally, the STAR method is recommended for answering the story. Lay out the situation. What was your task? Outline your actions. What was the result? STAR is good, but it is not enough. I recommend the expanded STAR:

- Briefly set up the situation. Don't spend a lot of time here. Just enough to show that it answers the question. Any additional details should just be there to show that the challenge was large, complex and/or important (all of which may make it score more).
- What was your role in dealing with the situation? Were you the team lead? Which tasks or responsibilities were assigned to you? What was your accountability and scope of decision-making?
- What did you do? Also, at least as important, how did you do it? This is your chance to demonstrate

two things: (a) your knowledge of methodologies and (b) your skills. E.g., "I used this methodology and went through these phases. I ran into these challenges and overcame them using these skills, competencies and techniques." If you can add why you did it, that can also demonstrate analytical skills and/or good judgement.

- Describe the results, e.g., "The project came in on time and on budget and won an Amethyst Award."

I can't stress enough how important it is to go beyond just saying what you did. In fact, it is so important, I'm going to pull it out into its own tip:

Tip 3: Explicitly tie your stories to the qualifications

Don't trust your interview panel to see the connection. Hit them over the head with it. Say things like "I had to use my problem solving skills" or "Communication and facilitation skills were necessary to achieving consensus. I called a meeting and used techniques a, b and c to get everyone on the same page."

Tip 4: Prepare crib sheets for the academic knowledge areas

Not all questions can be answered by stories. I've also seen questions like "What are the phases of the project development life cycle and what is produced in each?" For each area of "academic knowledge" outline the foundational knowledge that might show up in this kind of question in a crib sheet. But remember that knowing the facts is just the first step. You really score the points when you can show that you are not just parroting something you memorized/wrote down but that you understand it and the context. It is good to say why something is in your answer, how it relates to other things, etc. Put it in context. This is particularly important for questions where they are asking for a selection, rather than comprehensiveness (e.g., what are the key..., what are the most important...). Then it is vital to demonstrate your analysis skills. It is not enough to say which are the most important. You've got to say why they are the most important.

Tip 5: Research the job context

What ministry/division/branch is the job in? What is the work culture like? What problems are they facing?

This kind of research is common and recommended in the literature for private sector interviews but I don't see it very often in the public sector. Give the manager or director a call

and ask some questions. Ideally you want to know what problems they are looking for this position to solve. Some may be leery of answering that specific question (thinking it will give you too much of a leg up on the competition) but they will generally be ready to speak more generally about their problems and priorities (or those of the larger organizational unit of which they are a part. Colleagues in the area at the same level as the opening may be more forthcoming about what problems the position will be tackling.

Having the answer to these questions enables you to rehearse for questions like "Why are you the right person for the job? What are your strengths and weaknesses?" The key to this is to understand what they are looking for, what problems they are facing and show how you match and can solve the problems. Your answer can take a format like:

- Summarize the key qualifications of the job, challenges faced by the position and the organization.
- Briefly show why you believe you meet the qualifications/can meet the challenges/solve the problems. I.e., what skills and experience do you have that are applicable.

This type of context information also allows you to predict and prepare for questions like "If you were faced with this problem, how would you solve it?" These can be solved with a variation of the story answers discussed above.

A final note:

Wouldn't it be great if it wasn't just skills, competencies and experience that were scored in our hiring evaluations but values as well? That might help us to achieve the cultural changes we are looking for and show our commitment, as an organization, to the values we espouse. In the meantime, if one were to add a bit to the stories in the "what I did and how I did it" section saying "I demonstrated this organizational value" it would make for a better answer in my eyes in any interview. I can't speak for other hiring managers, though.



❖ News in Brief

Shahbaz Bhatti's driver flees Pakistan

LAHORE: Gulsher, a Pakistani Christian and family driver of the late Shahbaz Bhatti, fled from Pakistan after life threats to him and his family.

When terrorists of Tehreek Talban Pakistan TTP attacked the car of Federal Minority Minister Shahbaz Bhatti in Islamabad, Gulsher was driving his car. According to media reports, the TTP terrorists ordered Gulsher to run away, sprayed bullets on Shahbaz Bhatti and stayed on the crime scene till confirmation of his death.

Both Shahbaz Bhatti and Gulsher were Pakistani Christians with links to the village Of Khuspur in district Faisalabad.



Sawan Masih

Sawan Masih convicted in blasphemy case

LAHORE: Sawan Masih a victim of the blasphemy law was convicted in a false case of insulting the prophet Muhammad during the course of conversation with a Muslim friend in Joseph Colony Badami Bagh Lahore on 8 March 2013. Sawan Masih was arrested after blasphemy accusations were made against him. Sawan Masih has since been in camp jail, Lahore. After the accusation, the whole Christian town of St. Joseph Colony-Badami Bagh, Lahore was torched by a Muslim mob and Christians had to flee. The police silently watched while the Muslim protestors stole valuable possessions and destroyed Christian homes.

Since his arrest, he has been confined in a judicial lockup without committing an offense. On 27 March 2014 Additional Session's Judge, Chaudry Ghulam Murtaza, handed down the death sentence and also ordered him to pay a fine of 200,000 Pakistani rupees.

Mr. Joseph Francis, International Director CLAAS has urged his legal team consisting of Mr. Naeem Shakir, Mr. Tahir Bashir and Mr. Nasir Anjum to file a criminal appeal immediately in the High Court against the order of death sentence by the Session's Court.

Pakistani Court Postpones Hearing on Appeal of Asia Bibi Blasphemy Conviction

LAHORE: An appeal in the case of Asia Bibi, the Pakistani woman who was convicted on unsupported blasphemy charges, has been postponed after her accuser failed to appear in court, the Fides news service reports.

According to an article appearing on the www.catholicculture.org website, attorneys for Bibi, who has been jailed since 2009 when neighbors accused her of blaspheming the prophet Mohammad, were prepared to argue for her release at a March 26 hearing in Lahore High Court.

However, because the Muslim who submitted the original legal complaint against her was not present, the judges postponed the hearing.

Supporters of Bibi, who was sentenced to death after her conviction, have welcomed the opportunity to put the case before the appeals court, arguing that lower courts have been intimidated by Muslim extremists.

According to The Voice of the Martyrs' Persecution Blog (VOM), Bibi's accuser is Muslim Mullah Qari Muhammed Sallam. He submitted the original complaint on 19 June 2009. The complaint accused Asia Bibi of speaking against Mohammed, on June 14 of that year.

Asia Bibi was sentenced to death on 8 Nov 2010. Her appeal was filed with the Lahore High Court on 11 November 2010.

Priest among suspects in Indian rector's killing

BANGALORE: A Catholic priest and two other men have been arrested in connection with the murder of a seminary rector in southern India's Bangalore almost a year ago, police said today.

Father Elias Daniel, a Carmelite priest, and two other people identified only as William Patrick and Peter, are now in police custody.

"We have very strong evidence that these people have done it," said senior police officer Pranab Mohanthy, who leads the investigation, referring to the murder of Father K. J. Thomas of Bangalore's St. Peters seminary on 31 March last year.

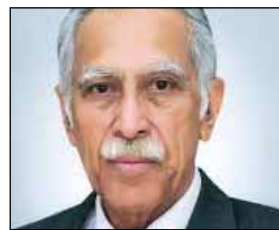
Police said there was "a lot of resentment" towards the rector by the accused, who felt they had been sidelined for important posts in the seminary.

According to police, the accused had hatched a "criminal conspiracy" and selected Easter Day when most occupants of the seminary would be on leave.

Church sources admitted the case is linked to a three-decade-old ethnic language issue simmering in the Church in Bangalore. Local Catholics who speak Kannada say they are neglected in policy decisions and appointments in the Church, which is dominated by migrant Catholics from neighboring Tamil Nadu and Kerala states.

Late Group Captain Cecil Chaudhry honored

LAHORE: Group Captain (Rtd) Cecil Chaudhry was posthumously conferred by the President of Pakistan, the



Cecil Chaudhry

President's Award for Pride of Performance (one of the highest civil awards in Pakistan) for his outstanding contributions in the fields of education and human rights; making him the recipient of not only gallantry but also civil awards of the country.

The investiture ceremony took place at the Governor's House in Lahore on 23 March 2014. His son Cecil S Chaudhry received the award on behalf of his father.

Group Captain Cecil Chaudhry served the Pakistan Air Force for 28 years and went on to become one of the most outstanding officers of the Pakistan Air Force. He fought the Indo-Pak wars of 1965 and 1971, for which he was awarded the Sitara-e-Jurat (Star of Courage) one of the highest military awards of Pakistan.



Multan's Saint Mary's Cathedral

Multan's Saint Mary's Cathedral renovated by the Pakistan Army

MULTAN: The cathedral's doors were thrown open to the public after massive renovation and repair work, which was inaugurated by Corps Commander Multan, Lieutenant General Abid Parvez.

The renovation cost more than five million rupees, which was contributed by the cantonment board Multan, civil society and from different sects.

Station Commander Brigadier Taufeeq Tahir said the cathedral was constructed in 1848, but had fallen into ruin and disrepair.

"We welcomed the renovation request of our honourable Christian community. It was not only renovated but completely rehabilitated, and members of all communities and sects are welcome here without any religious or social discrimination," he said.

Bishop Leo Paul, who spoke on the behalf of the Christian community, paid special thanks to the Pakistan Army and civil society of Multan. Addressing the ceremony, he discussed the problems of the church with Lieutenant General Abid Parvez and asked for a clean-up of encroachments and illegal buildings from the cathedral's surroundings. He also requested for the construction of a school for the Christian community near the church.



Paster Saeed Abedini and wife Naghmeh

Pastor Saeed Abedini doing better

IRAN: CBN News is reporting that Pastor Saeed Abedini's wife, Naghmeh, says he's doing better now that he's getting some medical treatment. The American pastor has been jailed in Iran for 18 months.

He was recently transferred to an Iranian hospital to be treated for injuries he has suffered in Iran's deadliest prison Rajai Shahr, where he has been incarcerated after being moved from Evin Prison in Tehran.

After time in the "murderer ward" he was sent to a "political prisoner" ward. His wife Naghmeh Abedini says her husband is finally being given decent meals and pain medication. But she said he still needs surgery.

In early March, U.S. Abedini, who is affiliated with Calvary Chapel Boise, Idaho), was moved from Rajai Shahr Prison to a private hospital in Iran. He was told he would receive further tests on his deteriorating medical condition and undergo surgery to address chronic pain in his stomach area - the result of numerous prison beatings.

After worldwide protests against his brutal handling, Iran called the recent shackling of Abedini a "mistake."

In February, President Obama raised the imprisonment of Pastor Abedini at the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, D.C. and called on Iran to release him so he can return to his family.

President Obama said, "We pray for Pastor Saeed Abedini. He's been held in Iran for more than 18 months - sentenced to eight years in prison on charges relating to his Christian beliefs. And as we continue to work for his freedom today, again, we call on the Iranian government to release Pastor Abedini so he can return to the loving arms of his wife and children in Idaho."

continued on page 11

❖ News in Brief

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Pastor Saeed was visiting Iran, the land of his birth, to start an orphanage, when the Islamic regime arrested him and, in September 2012, he was sentenced to eight years in prison.

Christian Couple in Pakistan Sentenced to Death for Blasphemy



Shafqat Emmanuel and Shugufta Emmanuel

LAHORE: A Christian couple in Punjab Province incapable of writing proper Urdu has been sentenced to death for allegedly sending blasphemous text messages, bringing the number of Christians on death row in Pakistan to four.

According to a story by Morning Star News, the death knell for Shafqat Emmanuel and Shugufta Emmanuel sounded eight days after a court in Lahore sentenced another Christian, Sawan Masih, to death for allegedly insulting Islam's prophet, Muhammad, during a drunken conversation with a Muslim friend.

That made Masih the second Christian in Pakistan now on death row after a judge sentenced Christian mother Asia Bibi to death for alleged blasphemy in Nov. 2010.

A court in Toba Tek Singh heard the case against Shafqat Emmanuel, 43, and his wife, a cleaner at a local missionary school and mother to four young children.

At least three other cases have been registered previously against Christians based on blasphemous text messages. In May 2006, Qamar David was accused of sending blasphemous text messages to various Islamic clerics in Karachi. He was convicted in February 2010 and died in prison on 15 March 2011.

In January 2009, Hector Aleem and Basharat Khokhar were accused of sending text messages that hurt Muslims' religious sentiment. They were acquitted of the charge on 31 May 2011.

Ryan Stanton, then 16, was charged with sending blasphemous text messages in Karachi on 10 October 2012. He has fled the country after the family's home was vandalized by a violent Muslim mob.

At least two Muslims- Abdul Sattar and Irfan Rafique, have also been charged with sending blasphemous text messages.

My memories of Shadab Khokhar

Grace Khairullah

It was the end of 2013. We had already entered the Christmas Season and were busy with plans to celebrate Christmas with our families, friends and loved ones.

Christmas Day dawned bright, crisp and cold with lots of snow on the ground. There was an air of excitement in the air. Little was I to know that before the end of the day my world would turn upside down. Our Christmas Service was scheduled to start at 1 pm, followed by special Christmas lunch with Christmas cake and other goodies. Everyone was looking forward to the food and fellowship.

I reached church and met several friends and families wishing them a merry Christmas. Just before the service ended the pastor made an announcement that shook the ground beneath my feet. "Our brother Shadab is no longer with us", he said. "He has gone to be with the Lord".

I stood frozen in my seat. My ears could not believe the words I had heard. Could I have heard wrong? I had just spoken to Shadab two days ago. We'd been laughing and making plans to resurrect our organisation- the International Christian Awaz during 2014. What would happen to those plans? My mind couldn't comprehend the dreaded words I had just heard. Shadab Khokhar, my friend, my surrogate son, and my collaborator on so many projects was no more...

I first met Shadab over 24 years ago. A charming young man with a magnetic smile, he was the son of my former classmate and friend from the Kinnaird Teacher's Training Academy in Lahore. Thus began a great friendship that would last for decades. Together we would do great things for the Pakistani Christian community in Toronto, Pakistan and across Canada.

In 1988 the only organisation representing Pakistani Christians was the Canadian Council of Pakistani Christians (CCPC). Both Shadab and I were part of this organisation. When the Blasphemy Law was imposed in Pakistan and Christians in the homeland were being accused of this crime, we urged CCPC to protest and uphold the rights of Pakistani Christians, but the organisation was more inclined towards the promotion of multiculturalism.

When our pleas went unheard, both Shadab and I left CCPC and formed a new organisation which would be dedicated to fight and protect the rights of suffering Christians in Pakistan. We chose the name International Christian Awaz.

For nearly a quarter of a century this organisation fought tirelessly for the rights of the Christians of Pakistan. Travelling to Ottawa, Montreal and across the United States, we held



Shadab Khokhar

meetings, consultations and conferences as we alerted the public to the threat facing Christians in Pakistan. The support we garnered from all sectors of the community and from outsiders was amazing. People from all walks of life assured us of their support.

Awaz opened chapters in Montreal, England, Dallas, New York, Washington and other cities across the US. Together we shared the plight of Christians in Pakistan before the Canadian government, US Senate and Congress, Amnesty International and other groups across North America.

Shadab was a smart, well educated person with a magnetic personality. He made friends easily and maintained those friendships forever. Once you became his friend, he would listen to you, heed your advice and take action- immediately if necessary. He charmed both friend and foe alike and promoted the cause of the Christians of Pakistan wherever he went. That was his passion and he propagated it untiringly.

I remained General Secretary of the International Christian Awaz for many years. During this time I got to know Shadab very closely, admiring his ethics, work and dedication. He would often call me, 2-3 times a week to exchange ideas and share thoughts about different community situations. I will miss those phone calls- as I will miss him dearly.

Shadab's charismatic leadership motivated and encouraged many young people who joined our protests in Toronto, Ottawa and other places. He was a role model for youth and they followed him everywhere. This was important to Shadab who believed that Canadian Christian young people from Pakistani backgrounds imbibe the zeal, fire and passion needed to share the message of suffering Christians with the world. His own son Christopher is preparing to fill his father's shoes.

Awaz initiated several programs to create awareness towards the plight of Christians in Pakistan. Rallies, radio and television interviews, press releases and symposiums all resulted in greater awareness within political and community circles. I still remember the hunger strike at Queens Park in Toronto that bitterly cold January several years ago. Seniors, ladies, youth, community leaders, pastors and hundreds of other supporters from all walks of life came out to support our cause.

Shadab always said "Our community and our people are our strength. As long as they support our cause, we can never go wrong". He was right. It was the community and its support, participation, monetary support and encouragement that built Awaz into a strong, international grassroots organization.

Shadab's charisma, strength and talents will always be a source of inspiration to the communities and people he served. We, who were privileged to call you our friend, will remember you with a smile. We thank God for sharing you with us and for the time you spent on this earth. May you rest in peace with those who preceded you, your parents and brother Kenneth.

Shadab is no longer with us. The community lost a great leader, a strategic politician and I lost a great friend and surrogate son. My children called him "Mum's adopted son". As someone appropriately remarked at his funeral "We will never see another Shadab in our lifetime". Truer words have never been spoken.

Grace Khairullah, a retired teacher, was General Secretary of International Christian Awaz and a close friend of Shadab Khokhar for many years.

❖ Community News:

❖ A COMPILATION OF HAPPENINGS IN THE COMMUNITY BY FARZANA SHARIQ ❖



See the land, her Easter keeping, rises as her Maker rose. Seeds, so long in darkness sleeping, burst at last from winter snows. Earth with heaven above rejoices... - Charles Kingsley



This has been a long cold winter but it is finally over. Spring is here. This season is a time of new growth. New leaves appear on trees and new plants peek through the earth to seek the face of the sun. The community too begins its round of picnics, parties and other social events. We look forward to covering these in future issues.

This winter a number of people left us for their eternal abode. Their presence will be deeply felt in the community but while we grieve with their families, we rejoice in the hope of eternal life promised to all believers.

✝ Events and Happenings:

❖ Pakistani Consulate General celebrates Christmas with the Pakistani Canadian Christian community

On 21 December 2013, the Pakistani Consulate of Toronto celebrated the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ with the Pakistani Canadian Christian community.

The Consul General, Mohammed Nafees Zakaria acknowledged the large number of Christians living in Pakistan and the significant number of Pakistani Christians in Canada. He also acknowledged that the Pakistani Christian community has played a vital role in the social, economic and political development of Pakistan.

The honorable guest for the night, Dr. Andrew Bennett, the Ambassador for the Office of International Religious Freedom Canada also shared his thoughts. Dr. Andrew Bennett thanked Mr. Nafees Zakaria for taking the initiative to celebrate Christmas. He said that the taking of this step spoke of highly of Mr. Zakaria and his government. He spoke of how Christmas brings peace of mind, the blessings we have received and receiving of new life.

❖ Canorient to hold Food Fair:

The Canorient Christian Association is holding a mini Food Fair at their club- 40 Hanlan Road in Toronto on Sunday 8 June 2014 from 1:00 pm onwards. Entrance \$ 2 only. Come and enjoy a variety of Goan and other East Indian foods.

❖ Christmas celebrated on The Hill

"Christmas on the Hill", a first of its kind event was held on Parliament Hill, in Ottawa on 5 December 2013. Christmas carols and prayers in several different languages were the hallmark of the event, and a testament to the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ, in all cultures and traditions.



Organizing team with Minister Jason Kenney

This historic Christmas service was organized by Canadian Christian Association along with Evangelical Asian Church. The event was hosted by the Hon. Jason Kenney, Minister for Employment, Social Development, and Multiculturalism. Several MP's and government officials were in attendance. Two buses were chartered from Toronto for the event. In addition, several people drove from Montreal, Kingston and other places in Ontario.

The event started with the opening prayer followed by the National Anthem sung by David, Jonina, and Sharon Charles, in both the official languages of Canada. In addition, carols were sung in various languages.

The Hon. Jason Kenney and the members of parliament present shared their thoughts and congratulated the organizers for participating in this one of a kind program on Parliament Hill. Kenney, other MP's and pastors who were in attendance then cut the Christmas cake together. Minister Kenney gave an inspiring speech which touched everyone's heart.

Prof. Obaid Chaudry acknowledged Minister Kenney's efforts in making the event possible, and thanked all the MP's, pastors, government officials, and attendees for coming to the program, and making it a big success.

✝ Passages:

"Blessed are those who die In the Lord, for now they will rest from their labour."

During the past four months several people from the community left us for their eternal home. Their presence will be sadly missed but we rejoice with the angels as these friends are welcomed into the heavenly hosts. Our prayers and support are with their families and relatives and we share with them in their grief.

❖ Joshua Sabir Bashir

Our condolences go out to **Sabir Nazir Bashir** and **Joy Grace Menzies** on the sudden death of their son **Joshua Sabir Bashir** who passed away in Calgary on 28 December 2013. He was 23 years old and the brother of Vanessa, Jonathan, Sabrina and Aden. This poem was written by his father Sabir.



Joshua Sabir Bashir

A FATHER'S CRY FOR HIS SON

In the wilderness of this world

I lost someone precious to me

My soul searches for him

And he is nowhere to be seen

He left me without a warning

He left me without a hug

He left me with a grieving heart

He left me with no return

I don't know what to say or do

I move here and there without a clue

I grieve and find no comfort

For I long to be with you

I know you lay in my Savior's arm

Whose blood was shed for you

Your sins are washed as white as snow

That Calvary was meant for you

Someday when my time is done

I'll find you in my Savior's arm

Till then my son, I here on earth

will serve the Lord till that day comes

Joshua, you were God's precious gift

Your precious soul now lays with Him

While here on this earth sojourn

I miss you, my son - Shalom.



Harris Pikk

❖ Harris Pikk

Harris Pikk was born in Nowshera, India on 11 August 1938. He later moved to Amritsar with his family and then on to Lahore, Pakistan. In Pakistan he completed his degree in Chemical technology and moved to England, where he did his Ph.D. in chemical technology. While in England he met the love of his life, Zohra whom he married.

Later they both migrated to Canada

and made their home in Mississauga, Ontario. After acquiring another degree in engineering from the University of Toronto, Harris joined the Professional Association of Engineering (PEO). On 14 March 1972 Harris and Zohra were blessed with the arrival of their son, Shamus.

A beautiful memorial service was held at St. Hilary's Anglican Church in Mississauga on 14 January 2014 to celebrate the life of Harris Pikk. He was the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Pikk, a loving brother to the late Adiel Pikk, Dr. Shirin Umar Khitab of Hamilton, Eileen Dinshaw of Mississauga and Albert Pikk (Germany).

A gentle and loving friend to many in Mississauga and around the world, Harris was always ready to help anyone who needed his help. He will be dearly missed by all.



Griffin Marcus

❖ Griffin Marcus

Ever a caring husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather - this is how Griffin Marcus (Papa-jee) lived his life. After thirty years of naval service which included fighting in two wars he retired from the Pakistan Navy in 1975 with the rank of Master Chief Petty Officer. During active service he completed his RN from the Naval Medical School in PNS Shifa and earned his Civil RN from Holy Family and Civil Hospitals in Karachi.

After moving to Dubai in 1977 he worked for another 18 years at Al-Qassimi Hospital Sharjah and the Sharjah International Airport, UAE.

Papa-jee was an active member of the Church of Pakistan, Sharjah till 1996 when he moved to Canada to enjoy his retirement with his family. He is survived by his wife, 3 sons, 3 grandchildren and a great grandson.

❖ Kenneth Massey

On 16 March 2014 family members and friends woke up to learn that Kenneth Massey, a loving husband, father, son, brother and a friend of many people all over the world had passed away peacefully in his sleep. Kenneth was born on 26 October



Kenneth Massey

1952 in Lahore. He was known in his family and community for being a friendly, knowledgeable and a very helpful person. He got married on 22 April 1982 to Ronaq David in Lahore, who later joined him in Toronto. They were blessed with four beautiful daughters.

Ken was activity involved with the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario, The First South Asian Church, the Local Integrated Health Network, the Canadian Christian Association, the Policy Advisory Council of the Solicitor General of Ontario and The Voice of The Martyrs. Besides all this he taught Sunday School and conducted workshops for adults.

Portico Community Church in Mississauga was packed with people, who had known Ken for many years and had come to pay their respects to a wonderful man. It was a beautiful service and we know that Ken is in the loving arms of His Lord. Memories are one of the most precious gifts and Ken has left us with many good memories. Our prayers and sympathies are with the family, mother, brother and sisters and other members of the family.



Victor Samuel

Victor Samuel

Victor Samuel (Gullo Bhai), son of the late Samuel Murad Khan of Karachi, passed away in Lakeridge Hospital, Oshawa, on 2 December 2013.

Born and raised in Karachi, Victor graduated in science from the University of Karachi and taught science for several years at St. Paul's Secondary School in Karachi. He later moved to Scotland for further training. On arrival in Canada he taught English, Science and Mathematics with the Toronto Region Separate School Board for many years. He will be missed by friends and family.

Gullo Bhai is survived by his brothers Saleem, Wilfred, Naseem, sister (Soni) Mary, nephew Winfred, neices Nora and Dahlia, grand nephews and grand nieces.

His simple yet touching funeral was held at the Peace Chapel in Mississauga and attended by many friends and relatives.

Beulah Mathias

Our condolences go to the Matthias family of Port Moody British Columbia on the death of Beulah Mathias.

Born on April 24, 1942 in Bhawalpur Beulah was the daughter of Victor and Eva Mall; Sister to Joseph, Promila, Paul, Issac and Frank; wife to Nasim; Mother to Aneela (Sam), Aneel



Beulah Mathias

(Lauren), Shakeel (Crystal) and Jameel (Grace) and a grandmother to Michael, Matthew, Mark, Maddison, Naiomi, Cierra and Baby Mathias.

Her roles were many and she touched countless lives and hearts. She was an English elementary school teacher in Pakistan. In 1974, she travelled to Canada with her children to start a new life with her husband, who had been waiting for one year for their arrival, to join him in Burnaby, BC.

She was a full time mother, a friend and an extraordinary woman. The values of faith, family, charity and a hard work ethic were instilled in her from an early age and she passed these principles on to her children. Her spirit and legacy will live on in all those who knew her.

Munawar Iqbal Randhawa

Our condolences also go to Shamaun (Simon) Randhawa, on the death of his brother Munawar Iqbal Randhawa who went to be with the Lord on 5 March 2014, in Pakistan. Please keep the family in your prayers.

Stella Mand

Condolences go to Rubina Lewis (Canada) and Nuzhat Williams (Karachi) on the death of their mother Stella Mand who passed away in Karachi on 30 October 2013. A teacher for many years, Stella will be fondly remembered by family and her many students in Sukkur and other parts of Pakistan.



Stella Mand



Oscar Massey

Oscar Michael Massey

Oscar Michael Massey or Pappu as he was fondly known, of Brampton passed away on 19 January 2014 aged 59 years. He was born in Rawalpindi, Pakistan on 14 June 1954 to Joseph and Sheila Massey. Oscar graduated from Gordon College with a Science Major. He later married his wife Urfa Helen Massey on 11 March 1988. Oscar was a caring and loving husband and an amazing father to his three sons Raymond, Richard, and Ryan Massey. He was also a loving brother to Olive, Cynthia, Ronald, Ruth, Maryln, and Shirley. In addition, he was a wonderful uncle to his many nieces and nephews and his grand nieces and nephews.

The fascination of cars led him into a new venture in his life, which drove him to becoming a dedicated business owner as a Master Mechanic. From fixing to selling cars, he later decided to pursue business in real-estate. He worked extremely hard in providing a fulfilling life for his family.

Oscar was a beloved member of the community, who was very well known and respected. He was an active member of the Bethel South Asian Church.

He lived a tremendous life, full of love and enjoyment, always stayed humble and looked for the good in people. He enjoyed spending every moment with family and friends. He was the person who always put others before himself and never hesitated to give a helping hand. Although, he is gone he will always live in our memories and will forever be remembered and missed dearly.

Victoria Laldin

Our thoughts and prayers are also with Younis Laldin, Director and Administrator of the Women's Christian Hospital, Multan who lost his wife Victoria Laldin in a tragic accident in Lahore in March. We pray for his daughter and granddaughter who remain in critical condition with severe injuries at this time.

Simon D'Lima

Friend and acquaintances of Simon D'Lima will be saddened to hear of his passing away on 9 December 2013 in the USA. Simon was born on 18 March 1924 in Karachi.

After earning a Bachelor of Education degree, he taught mathematics at St.

Patrick's High School in Karachi, and became Principal of PAF Model School Karachi. He then went on to own and operate St Peters High School in Karachi.

He taught for over 50 years and had the honor of educating many notable leaders, including the former President of Pakistan. In his younger years, he played field hockey and became quite



Simon D'Lima

proficient. He was a world traveler and enjoyed watching old Western movies, dancing, dining out and regularly attended church every day. He was preceded in death by his wife, Olive D'Lima (Thomas), 1 brother and 3 sisters.



Beatrice Ruth Benjamin

Beatrice Ruth Benjamin

Our condolences go out to the Robinson/Benjamin families on the death of their matriarch Beatrice Ruth Benjamin who passed away on 13 January 2014 in Glendora California. Loving wife of Joel Benjamin she was the mother of Sober, Debbie, Adella, Kazia, Ricky, Versha, Olivia & Arnold. She will be missed by her extended family and many friends in the USA, Canada and Karachi.

During this season of Easter we also remember our many seniors who are unable to share in the events of the community. We specially pray for a remember those who are sick, elderly and bed ridden. We hope the Easter Season will be a time of blessing for them and allow them to celebrate with their families and loved ones.

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❖ Did You Know?

Professor Samuel Burke

Professor Samuel Burke, who died at 104, was one of very few Indians to become a senior official in the Indian Civil Service under the British Raj; following partition, he helped to set up the Foreign Office in Pakistan and became an ambassador for the country, serving in 11 different capitals.

After retirement from the diplomatic service he became an academic in the United States, publishing a number of books on the history of India and the politics of Pakistan.

Samuel Martin Burke was born on July 3 1906 at Martinpur, a small Christian village near Faisalabad in what is now Pakistan. His father was the headmaster of a school and wrote poems under the pseudonym Burq (“lightning” in Urdu), which was adopted as the family’s surname. Exceptionally bright, Samuel took a first class degree in History and Masters at the Government College of Lahore before passing the Indian Civil Service (ICS) exams in 1931.

He rose to be a High Court judge and, in the closing phase of British rule in India, served as chairman of the three-man election petitions committee for the Punjab, set up to consider appeals against the results of the general election of December 1945, which had pitted the Congress Party, supporting a united India, against the Muslim League, campaigning for an independent Pakistan.

The commission had been appointed on the recommendation of the then prime minister of the Punjab, Sir Khizer Hayat Khan, whose Unionist Party was propped up by the Congress Party, and was thus regarded with

suspicion by the Muslim League. But Burke did not hesitate to give judgments in favour of the League where he felt they were warranted.

While the commission was still sitting, Indian political parties agreed to the formation of Pakistan, and a circular was sent to members of the ICS asking whether they wished to serve India or Pakistan or to retire. Burke felt that the only way he could assure leaders of all the political parties of his continued impartiality was to make it plain that he was not interested in government service in either country. Accordingly, he became the only Asian civil servant who decided to retire on August 15 1947.

By this time, however, his reputation was such that he was invited by both Congress and the League to come out of retirement. Since he had been born in what became Pakistan, he decided to serve in Pakistan.

The West Pakistan government offered him a ministry to represent the Christian minority, but he chose to join the newly-created Foreign Service. He was given charge of the two most important portfolios: India (with which innumerable partition disputes were in progress), and the United Nations (where the Kashmir dispute was being debated in 1948).

His first appointment abroad was in 1949 as counsellor to the High Commission in London. At a time when Pakistan was still wrestling with matters arising from Independence this was the country’s largest foreign mission. In 1952, he was transferred to Washington as counsellor, but was

soon promoted to the rank of minister.

Because of recurrent crises with India, Pakistan had decided to request military assistance from the United States, and to earn American goodwill Burke and his English-born wife Louise undertook nationwide speaking tours, his own Christian faith helping to undermine negative stereotypes about his country. His efforts soon began to bear fruit. In the food crisis of 1953, America promptly shipped a large quantity of wheat to Pakistan as a gift.

After Washington, he served as Chargé d’Affaires in Rio de Janeiro, and as Deputy High Commissioner in London. He then became the first Christian head of a Pakistani diplomatic mission, as Minister to Sweden, Norway, Finland and Denmark from 1953 to 1956. When the Commonwealth heads of mission in Stockholm gave a reception during a state visit of the Queen, they chose Burke to escort her during her walkabout.

After a spell in south-east Asia as first resident ambassador to Thailand, Burke was appointed to his final diplomatic posting, as High Commissioner to Canada from 1959 to 1961, when he signed an agreement for the peaceful uses of atomic energy which enabled Pakistan to purchase uranium from Canada.

Burke retired from Pakistan’s Foreign Service to take up a new chair in South Asian Studies created for him at the



Samuel Burke

University of Minnesota.

His books include Foreign Policy of Pakistan, and he also advised on the compilation of A Historical Atlas of South Asia.

Burke continued to write after he and his wife moved to England. *Akbar the Greatest Mogul*, published in India, won a commendation from Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. With Salim Al-Din Quraishi, he also wrote *Bahadur Shah, the Last Mogul Emperor of India*; *The British Raj in India*; and *Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, His Personality and His Politics*, in which he argued that, contrary to received wisdom, it was Gandhi, not Jinnah, who introduced religion into Indian politics and ultimately drove Muslims and Hindus apart. Burke was appointed to the Sitara-e-Pakistan, Pakistan’s highest honour, by President Ayub Khan.

In addition to a varied and successful career, Burke had a very happy home life. His English wife, Louise, adjusted to her husband’s extended family with amazing ease. He dedicated *A Life of Fulfilment* to her. He is survived by three daughters, nine grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and seven great-great-grandchildren.

Samuel Martin Burke, civil servant, diplomat, historian, born 3 July 1906 died 9 October 2010.

❖ Profile

Tim and Sobia Iqbal

When Shalom Iqbal celebrated his third birthday with family and friends he didn’t receive many presents. Instead, Shalom’s parents, Tim and Sobia, asked the birthday guests to make donations to the Rotary Club of Mississauga-City Centre.”Shalom has so many toys at home,” explains his mother, Sobia. “We wanted to encourage him to think about helping others on his special day.”

Shalom is learning at a young age to follow in his parents’ footsteps. Both Tim and Sobia Iqbal have made it a life priority to give back to their newly adopted community. Tim and Sobia arrived in Canada seven years ago with high hopes and a willingness to start small and work hard. Their first jobs were very Canadian – Tim shoveled snow and Sobia served food in a retirement home.

Not content with just doing their ‘survival jobs’ and their studies at Sheridan College, this young couple began right away to give back to their new community. Sobia volunteered with the YMCA and Tim established a network group for new Canadians at Sheridan College called the Sheridan Internationally Trained Professionals (ITPs) Network. Tim tells it this way: “I realized when I first came to Canada that what I missed most were my former professional and social networks. I received help from a Sheridan professor to network here in Canada and I wanted to provide networking opportunities for other professional immigrants as well.”

Tim now runs two successful technology businesses and is president of the Rotary Club of Mississauga-City Centre. He has recently started a Rotary program called

“Extending Seniors’ Horizons” to help seniors learn IT and social media skills. He has also organized World Refugee Day and International Peace Day for the last few years in the Region of Peel and he works tirelessly to promote human rights.

Besides serving as the Chairperson of the Sheridan ITPs Network and as a Mentor with the Toronto Regional Immigrants Employment Council (TRIEC) and the Calgary Regional Immigrants Employment Council, Tim serves on several community boards. He was recognized by TRIEC as a “Mentee who Become Mentor” and was awarded Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for his services to the community and to Canada.

Sobia is now employed at the Sheridan



Sobia, Shalom and Tim Iqbal

College resource centre where she helps new immigrants establish their careers and integrate into Canadian society. She also volunteers with Big Brothers and Big Sisters.

Last month, Shalom presented a cheque to the Rotary club on International Peace Day. For Tim Iqbal this opportunity to ‘give back’ is the best birthday present he could have given his son. “Maybe one day when Shalom grows up he will look back and be encouraged to contribute to humanity and to serve others above himself”.

❖ Profile

Gumby (John Louis) Pinto

Gumby is twenty four years old, but has been playing almost as long as anyone in the local pop/rock industry. As a child he went to many a Christian wedding where there was always live music. Gumby would stand transfixed before the drummer who seemed to be the most happening person in the band with stomping legs, arms that were a blur because they moved so fast and making the biggest noise. By the time Gumby was six, he was happily banging away on pots, pans and tables around the house. By 1984 he was playing in a church choir.

Noticing his interest, his uncle (Gumby’s father passed away a month before he was born) bought him a kit when he turned eleven. It was nothing fancy, just a basic kit made in Sialkot, but it was enough for Gumby started practising and became one of the finest drummers this country has seen. The encouragement helped. He would play. His mother would sing. People would clap.

As a child Gumby entered the fantasy that his reality is rooted in today. He would play a CD and imagine himself playing at a concert. A crowd cheered him while he did drum rolls. Practice continued to bring him closer to perfection and his dreams fuelled the ambition that blazed brightly in his twelve year old mind. By the time he was in his sixth year at St. Paul’s, he got the urge to leave school. Gumby had tasted the excitement of playing live with other musicians.

His first professional gig came in 1989 with Junaid Jamshed, Aamir Zaki, Imran Ali (keyboard player) and Bosco D’Souza (bass player). It was his best summer ever. He would jam everyday at Zaki’s house and his inborn talent blossomed in the company he kept. His drumming got better, his academic performance slackened and he told his mother that she was wasting her money and his time by keeping him in school. On her insistence, he kept studying for another three years and then dropped out. Louis Pinto had found his true calling in life.

He played with Aamir Zaki and his band for a year and a half till Bosco left for the States and Aamir hooked up with the Vital Signs. Left in the lurch, Gumby joined Milestones, with Candy Pereira (vocals), Ziyad (guitar), Ali Tim (bass) and John Saville (keyboards). Milestones were a top ten band; that is, one of the ten commercial bands around at the time, and with them Gumby tasted his first commercial success. His curriculum vitae became more impressive and his playing improved. Hotheaded as he was, (and still is) Gumby quarrelled with them and left.



Gumby (John Louis) Pinto

He headed off into metal, which was a different ball game altogether. No matter how good local attempts at metal are, Pakistan just isn’t ready for it yet. Even when popular bands try it out,

By the time Gumby was six, he was happily banging away on pots, pans and tables around the house.

they temper that one metal song with five commercial ones. Money always has the last word. The band Gumby joined went kaput after one gig and drowned in the quagmire of wasted anonymity that swallows most musicians who dare to do come up with anything that is not pleasingly catchy. Gumby couldn’t afford to sink. Not born with a silver spoon in his mouth, he had to make enough money to support himself and contribute towards the bills.

In 1992, he started playing with the Sheraton Lobby Band. It was a tight enough 4-piece band that played covers of songs previously done by American and British bands. Gumby’s rendition of Santana’s “Black Magic Woman” where he unleashed a brutal staccato at the climax got many an encore whenever they got the occasional appreciative audience. Musically, the experience tempered Gumby. Playing at the Sheraton gave him a sense of volume control. It is difficult for a drummer to play softly, but Gumby did not have a choice. A lobby band does not have the liberty to crank up the volume, in case the general manager throws a fit. Three years at the Sheraton lobby were enough for Gumby who wanted to play hard and loud. He

joined Awaz in 1996 with his long-time partner in rhythm Aamir Zaki.

Gumby went on his first ever international tour with Awaz. The band was half sequenced, because it was rather difficult for Haroon and Fakhir to sing, play music and gyrate energetically at the same time. Gumby went electronic with his drums. It was difficult but not as much as playing with the overtly meticulous Zaki. With Awaz, Gumby sharpened his instinct for playing pop which was tough for him. He had to have perfect timing to keep the tunes catchy and danceable. Gumby learnt this art for two years and during this time started teaching his craft as well. One of his more talented students is currently studying music in Boston and was hobnobbing with the likes of Neil Peart the drummer of Rush.

Soon, the back-to my-kind-of-music bug bit him and he left Awaz along with Aamir to work on Najam Sheraz’s “Roop Nagar”. That “Roop Nagar” was put together by pop industry virtuosos is obvious on first listen. It is pop rock’s finest hour with not a bad track on the album. He then joined the Vital Signs for their BBC concert to mark 50 years of Pakistan. It remains the best show he has done from the light and sound perspective. On

his return to Pakistan, he went back to playing shows with Aamir and soon got a call from Salman Ahmad. He said that Junoon’s drummer, Malcolm had migrated to Canada.

Gumby joined Junoon in 1999 and he maintains that it is the most professional set up he has worked with. The money he made through them was enough for him to order his dream drum set from DW Drums. Though his priorities lie with Junoon, Gumby does his own thing jamming with musicians both big and small. “Ishq”, his first album with Junoon, is ready for release. Nowadays he is spending time in the recording studio for Ali Azmat’s first solo venture.

Now Gumby wants to explore the drums and bass option amongst other things. Now that his dreams have come true, he can afford to dream some more.

Matrimonial Ads

On requests from the community Dharkan is providing this FREE service to interested families. Dharkan cannot verify the credentials of the advertisers and takes no responsibility for the contents of the ads. Replies received will be forwarded to the relevant advertiser for action at their convenience.

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Looking for a match for a Canadian Citizen, 28 years old .Came here from Pakistan in 1997. Lives and works in Calgary as a structural designer (in oil and gas field) as a contractor and makes a handsome income. Also has a diploma as a personal physical trainer. Does regular workout and loves and plays sports including squash, basketball, soccer and golf. Outstanding Christian.

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Looking for a good Christian girl for 35 year old Christian, living in Lahore. Professional, hardworking, dedicated. committed Christian.

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FEMALE:
Looking for a good Christian boy, with a well mannered personality, for a pleasant 28 year old girl, Canadian citizen working in the travel industry. Originally from India, graduate of Madras University. Mother tongue Tamil.

For details write to editor@dharkan.ca

❖ Church Directory

BRAMPTON

All Peoples Church (Mashi Satsang)

11613 Bramalea Road
Brampton
Pastor: Santosh Kumar
Phone: 647-401-4080
Service: 3:00 pm every
Sunday

New Covenant Church of Canada South Asian Evangelistic Ministries St Jude's Anglican Church

1000 Central Park Drive
Brampton
Pastor: Alexander David
Phone: (905) 696-7590
Service: 4:00 p.m. every
Sunday

South Asian Christ Church

3 Cathedral Road
Brampton
Pastor: S Khokar
Phone: 416-669-1022
Service: 3:00pm every
Sunday

United Apostolic Church

723 Balmoral Drive
Brampton
Contact: Bishop Edwin Riaz
Phone: 416-823-6613
Service: 3:00 pm every
Sunday

Bethel South Asian Church

10245 Kennedy Road North
Brampton
Pastor: Wilson Nazim
Phone: 905-782-2720
Service: 3:00pm every
Sunday

Prayer Stone Peoples Church

2051 Embleton Road
Brampton
Pastor: C Walter
Contact: Faraz Saleem
Phone: 416-274-5203
Service: 2:30pm every
Sunday

Eastern Kiononia Free Methodist Church Holy Family Anglican Church

10446 Kennedy Road
Brampton
Pastor: Javed Jamil
Phone: 416-414-3240
Services: 2 pm. every
Sunday

Prayer Stone Peoples Church

2051 Embleton Road
Brampton
Pastor: C Walter
Contact: Faraz Saleem
Phone: 416-274-5203
Service: 2:30pm every
Sunday
www.sachristian.com

Life Eternal Asian Fellowship (LEAF) Canada

1989 North Park Drive
Brampton
Pastor: Robin Wasti
Phone: 647-708-6815
Service: 4:00pm every
Sunday

ETOBICOKE

New Apostolic Church - West Humber

6484 Finch Ave (at Martin
Grove Rd) Etobicoke,
South Asian congregation
Priest: Rev Joseph Bazal
Phone: 416-371-9995
Service: 2:30 pm every
Sunday

Evangelical Asian Church St Andrews Presbyterian Church

1579 Royal York Rd
Etobicoke
Pastor: Raj Dass
Service: 3:30 pm every
Sunday

Behta Darva Asian Church

573 Albion Rd
Etobicoke
Pastor: Vishal Ranga Masih
Services: 3:00 every Sunday

LONDON

Asian Christian Fellowship

727 Southdale Rd
London
Contact: Mumtaz Mall
Phone: (519) 652-6978
Services: 3:30 pm. every
other Sunday

MISSISSAUGA

All Nations Bible Church

2355 Derry Rd. East
Units 9 & 10
Mississauga
Pastor: Samuel Gori
Phone: (416) 856-0751
Services 11 am every Sunday

Asian Christian Alliance Church

5725 Terry Fox Way
Mississauga
Pastor: Carol Patrick
Phone: (416) 500-7249
Service: 3:30 pm every
Sunday

New Life South Asian Church Light Presbyterian Church

6965 Professional Court
Mississauga
Pastor: Prakash Masih
Phone: (905) 507-1922
Service: 4:00 p.m. every
Sunday

South Asian Bible Church

2355 Derry Rd. Rd. E Union
9 & 10
Mississauga
Pastor: Salim Arthur
Services: 3:00 pm every
Sunday

Cornerstone Asian Church City Baptist Church

3434 Cawthra Rd
Mississauga
Pastor: Peter Paul
Phone: 416.913.1823 or
416.858.2264
Services: 4:30 pm every
Sunday

Sarooa Ministries

7406 Glamorgan Way
Mississauga
Prayer Line: (905) 564-6097
Contact: Geoff Saroea

SCARBOROUGH

Grace Presbyterian Church Urdu Service

447 Port Union Rd.
Scarborough
Pastor: Emmanuel Laldin
Phone: (647) 350-9101
Services 3 pm every other
Sunday

TORONTO

Church of the Lamb of God

28 Martin Ross Ave. Toronto
Pastor: Samuel Joseph
Phone: (416) 636-4189
Services: 3:00 pm every
Sunday

Christian Hope Tamil Alliance

1 Chatelaine Drive
Markham
Pastor: Rev Dr Irwin Sikha
Phone: 416-757-4916
Call for church timings

Telegu Christian Fellowship of Canada

Willowdale Baptist Church
15 Olive Avenue, Toronto
Contact:
Nageswar Rao Jillepalli
Phone: 416-665-4658
Raj Tella
Phone: 905-683-7016
Call for timings.
RADIO PROGRAM

Dars-eYazdan

Every Sunday at 10:30 am
CJMR 1320 AM
Contact: Mr. Javed Dean
Phone (416) 879-3813

OTHER- SOUTH ASIAN FRIENDLY CHURCHES

Bramalea Baptist Church

http:bramaleabaptist.org
Telephone: (905) 451-0088
9050 Dixie Road
Brampton ON L6S 1J3

Churchill Heights Baptist Church

http:churchillheights.com
7601 Sheppard Ave. East
Scarborough ON M1B 2Y7

New Life Christian Church

www.celebratenewlife.com
Pastor: Wayne Wright
(416) 497-5437
480 Huntingwood Drive
Toronto ON M1W 1G4

The Peoples Church

Pastor: Charles Price
(416) 222-3341
374 Sheppard Ave East
Toronto ON M2N 3B6

Rexdale Alliance Church

Pastor: Sunder Krishnan
(416) 741-1110
2459 Islington Ave
Etobicoke ON M9W 3X9
Toronto International

CelebrationChurch

Pastor: Peter Karl Youngren
416-497-4940
190 Rainside Road
Toronto ON M3A 1A3

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