



**Jan - June**



**2021**

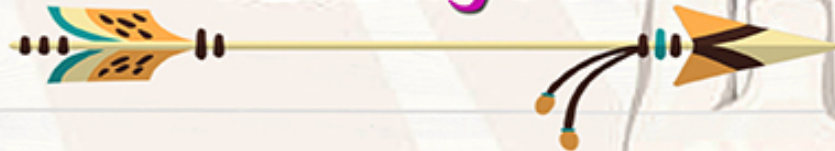
*Half Yearly News Letter*

# Diocese Of Jabalpur

Church Of North India

Jabalpur

**Be Strong  
And  
Courageous**



*for the Lord your God goes  
with you; he will never leave  
you nor forsake you.*



**Diocese Of Jabalpur  
Church Of North India**

For Private Circulation Only

# News Letter

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## *Thought*

*If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together. -*

*African proverb*

*for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.*

*Diocese Of Jabalpur  
Church Of North India  
2722 Napier Town, Jabalpur, M.P. 482001*





## Diocese Of Jabalpur Church Of North India

### Greetings to all our esteemed readers!

For the past 16 months we were under the evil spell of COVID-19. We are glad that it is subsiding now in our area and we thank God abundantly. Many of our friends and relatives died because of the pandemic. Let us pay homage to their memory and remember their relatives and friends in prayer. We thank God for the life and witness of Rev. R.P. Titus who was called to eternal rest.

Last issue of the News Letter was published six months ago. In the same way, this News Letter also is a double volume, "January to March" plus "April to June 2021". You will understand that we have to be restricted in this way because of the impact of COVID-19. Our Bishop, in his message, has given us an overview of the activities of our diocese during the past six months. So we are not going in details into those areas. All we wish to say is that our Bishop's messages of Hope sustained us through this crisis and the activities of the diocese were held in the best way virtually and staying in strict observance of the COVID protocols. The Pastors, diocesan officers and diocesan workers played their roles responsibly, in spite of the heavy limitations.

The new normal situation has affected the whole world and, in turn, the community of our diocese also. In this respect, we need to do three things urgently. The first one is basic. Though all of us speak about the "New Normal", we do not have the real grasp of it. As a diocese we have to carefully study and measure its nature and impact in all specific areas of life. Second, regarding church life, worship service and support to church, members have already developed "a new normal attitude." Children, youth and families are affected in a drastic way. We have to carefully assess these changes.



Rev Dr. Ipe Joseph  
Editor

Third, we have to revise, restructure and reorganize our worship services, catechism, youth, women and children activities to cope up with the new normal situation. The family has to find the central place in the activities of the Church. The Church should reach each of its members through the method of micro-praxis where everyone will get her/his dignity and share. Pastors need to put extra efforts to collect and store every detail of every member under their care. The Parish has to become a fully participatory living organism. Now many churches have become clubs run by a few people and the majority are non-participating members.

In addition to the Bishop's message this issue includes several articles, write ups, poems, reports, obituaries and many photographs. We offer our best wishes to the newly ordained Presbyter Ashwani Massey, and Deacons Rajneesh Daniel, Karishma Martin and Ira Solomon and assure our prayers for their future ministries. We congratulate Ms. Priyanka Singh, daughter of our beloved Bishop for successfully completing MBBS in first class. We wish her all the best in her internship also.

On July 12, 2021 our communication department will be completing 4 years. Due to COVID-19 we will postpone the celebration for another time. However, the editorial team Bruce, Malcolm, Nikhil and Ipe thank all the readers for your support for all these years.



## Diocese Of Jabalpur Church Of North India

### Bishop's Message



The Most Rev Dr P C Singh  
Bishop Diocese Of Jabalpur CNI

Dearly Beloved in Jesus Christ,

Six months ago when I wrote to you in this News Letter we were reeling under the scourge of COVID-19. Yet we strengthened ourselves with the message of hope and continued our cry to our Lord of healing. We thank God now with grateful hearts. COVID-19 is slowly diminishing. Our Jabalpur area is almost free from the pandemic.

In the last six months the life of our Church was not lethargic due to COVID-19, but all the more active, overcoming all limitations. In January, we gave focus on the marginalized, especially, the "children in the periphery". In February we observed the "healing week" with special emphasis on the present pandemic conditions. In March and April we celebrated our festivals virtually without losing their spiritual blessings, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. I made it a point to keep HOPE and the PROTECTION of our loving Father as the central theme of my messages during Holy Week. In the month of May we observed Ascension, Pentecost and the Trinity Sunday. In June we celebrated the Father's Sunday. It is comforting to see that we have learned to live with COVID-19 keeping ourselves and others safe by observing the health precautions. Also, our children are being equipped to use the virtual techniques effectively in their on-line classes.

We all are grieved about the demise of Rev. R. P. Titus who was Presbyter of St. Mark Church, Chhinwada. He has run his race well. We thank God for his life and ministry. May God give his family comfort. Many of our dear ones, far and near, died because of the pandemic. Among them were two of our precious teachers, Ms. Priya Dhanyabad and Mr. P. Tiwari. We uphold the bereaved family members and relatives in prayer.

We are happy that we were able to ordain several of our colleagues on April 10th. Ashwani Massey was ordained as Presbyter, and Mr. Rajneesh Daniel, Ms. Karishma Martin and Ms. Ira Solomon as deacons. We wish them the richest blessings and guidance from heaven for their ministry.

In our own humble way we expressed our solidarity and stewardship to our brothers and sisters in need. We distributed food packets to our Diocesan workers in need in Jabalpur, Amarpatan, and Katni. We have to be sensitive to the needs of others, especially those of our neighbours, who are hungry and yet hesitate to ask for help because of their self-respect. Our Pastors and families are knitted together in this crisis through regular messages, video calls and Google meets. Our Zoom meeting in the month of May was very fruitful. I am happy that our diocesan office is working on a regular basis even in the midst of this pandemic.

Our theme for this issue is, "Be strong and courageous". Deuteronomy 31:6. This was the farewell assurance Moses gave to the people and the new leader Joshua as they were getting ready to occupy the promised land. They had to fight with many enemies to inherit the land. Moses said that the Lord would go before them and gain them victory and hence no need to worry. To face our uncertain future we too need such an assurance. God of Moses and Joshua is our God and we put our trust in him.

With Blessings,  
The Most Rev. Dr. P. C. Singh

*Be strong*  
AND COURAGEOUS  
FOR I AM WITH YOU  
*Joshua 1:9*





**Diocese Of Jabalpur  
Church Of North India**

**BE STRONG  
AND  
COURAGEOUS**  
JOSHUA 1:9



Piyush Paul Singh

**Joshua 1:9** says "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

In the Holy Bible, after Moses the Lord had commanded Joshua to take the leadership of the Israelites and lead them to the promised land. After many years of slavery in Egypt and 40 years in the desert the Israelites were finally allowed to enter the land promised to their fathers. And Joshua was chosen by God to lead them to the promised land. Joshua was unsure and afraid, he had been a trusted helper of Moses, but he never thought he could ever lead Israel and in order to take up the promised land of Canaan the Israelites had to cross the river Jordan and then conquer the walled city of Jericho which was indeed a miraculous task. But God was with Joshua and commanded him to be STRONG AND COURAGEOUS.

People today are facing lots of problems, anxiety, depression, uncertainty. The outbreak of coronavirus has completely transformed the lives of all people. Churches are shut down, schools are closed and we have been locked down to our homes. The situation today indeed is unfavourable and hostile; the virus has taken the lives of many of our beloved ones and the people live in fear and are afraid. But through the story of Joshua the word of God tells us to be strong and courageous for the Lord stands with us, he commands us and is with us always as he was with Joshua. Not only mentally but physically also people are distorted today. Joshua that time had the same problem with him and the people he was leading. The Israelites wandered around the desert for 40 years and now they had to cross over a swollen torrent of Jordan river with

their flocks of sheep and goats, mothers with babies and toddlers. Joshua had at his hand a herculean task, but Joshua was strong in faith with God, he was courageous enough to let those people into the flooded river Jordan. For he knew God's command and he trusted God with all his might and strength. He took all his people into the river and we see that the river comes to a halt so that the people can easily pass through it. As a Christian we also need to have that courage that Joshua showed that instance. We also need to believe and obey God's command at all times and God will provide us with what we require. Joshua could have easily said no to God and could have acted on his will but he was obedient to God. Today we also need to be obedient to God's will, we should know his purpose is great for us, his plans are tremendous and exuberant for us.

Joshua knew that in order to reach Canaan, Israel first must capture the walled city of Jericho. As he was planning to make the attack, God sent a messenger who was to lead the attack instead of Joshua. He straight away bowed low to the man and obeyed God's command. He was not hesitant, he didn't question God's will but obeyed it. God commanded Joshua through the stranger and Joshua obeyed it. First he sent seven priests with trumpets in front of the procession of Israelites. Next after the priests, came the soldiers without any swords or weapons they were commanded just to march around the city wall blowing their trumpets and then come back to the camp. They followed this command for six days. Everyone was astonished looking at the strange command of God but Joshua was firm in his command he was courageous in his will and determined to obey God.



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Then on the seventh day God commanded Joshua to tell his people to march around the city wall seven times blowing their trumpets and singing and shouting. The Israelites did the same, and on the seventh time the walls came crashing down. The Israelites marched straight in to the city and conquered it and thus the promised land of CANNAN was theirs.

Due to the amazing will of Joshua, his covenant with God, his firm and courageous leadership the walled city of Jericho was captured and Israel entered into the promised land. Today we also need to show that firm and courageous determination towards the will of God. The situation for Joshua was also unreceptive and adverse but he showed utmost faith towards Gods command and followed it. We all know that times are tough. We have lost many things in life, we are afraid of what will come next and we are apprehensive about it. But at this time we need to show courage as Joshua showed and we will see Gods works in miraculous ways.

Joshua was chosen by God at the time of tumult, he was given the leadership of Israel when the people were questioning Gods plan and purpose. But Joshua never questioned God, his admirable will power and determination to obey gods command changed the world indeed. A verse that always gives me encouragement from the book of Joshua is

**"AND AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE WE WILL SERVE THE LORD FOREVER" Joshua 24:15**

May God bless all of us and help us to be strong and courageous and follow His will all the days of our lives.

Be  
Strong &  
Courageous



THE LORD YOUR  
GOD IS WITH  
YOU WHEREVER  
YOU GO.





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Swapnesh Pathak

### BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS

There are many times in life when we need someone to say to us to be strong and courageous. They ask us to take courage or to take heart in the times of trials or when we are facing some major issues. Like the time I remember when I was about to take a lengthy dive into the swimming pool (from 35m of height). I looked down, and it was a long, long way, and I'd never done this before. My mentor assured me with the technique and spoke "You'll be ok. I've got your back". Trust me I was just a 13 year old boy that time studying in IXth standard and those words helped me to conquer the situation with such an ease.

When we are discouraged we need to hear someone say, "Take Courage." Maybe you are facing an overwhelming situation. Maybe you were recently been laid off or face an uncertain future. Perhaps you are facing a serious health challenge. Maybe you're not facing a life-and-death situation, but you're facing several crazy kids who have the gift of frazzling. But at one time or another we all need to hear God say, "Take courage."

In the present time, we know that the whole world is going through very disheartening situation of Covid-19 pandemic. I remember last year somewhere in the month of March my wife reminded me we ran out of handwash soap, so I took a quick trip to replenish. To my surprise, there was only one family size of antibacterial soap left. I was aware of the growing concerns of the coronavirus, but I wasn't quite sure of its effects on people's buying decisions. Each day after that, I watched the serious efforts governments, organizations, businesses, and individuals were taking to prevent the spread of this disease.

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization announced the coronavirus (or Covid-19) a pandemic. A pandemic is an outbreak of a disease that spreads across a vast region such as continents or worldwide. On March 24th, 2020, the Prime Minister of India Mr. Narendra Modi announced the coronavirus pandemic to be a national

emergency and announced a complete lockdown of the country. Within hours entire state school systems closed, employees mandated to work from home, businesses closed, and grocery stores emptied.

As plans increased to combat the spread of this disease, anxieties increased as well. I became laser-focused to pray against this disease and the many people it's affecting all around the globe.

Everyday challenges can be a test of our faith, no less a global pandemic. Not only are people worried about their health; as schools and jobs close, people are also concerned about childcare, elderly family in nursing homes, and bills. This pandemic is not only a threat to our health but our trust in God.

Battling with such thoughts we have passed a year and still we are continuously battling with it. Report says - The immediate human and economic costs of COVID-19 are severe. They threaten to scale back years of progress on reducing global poverty and inequality and further damage social cohesion and global cooperation.

For those reasons, the pandemic demonstrates why infectious diseases hits the top of the impact list. Not only has COVID-19 led to widespread loss of life, it is holding back economic development in some of the poorest parts of the world, while amplifying wealth inequalities across the globe. At the same time, there are concerns the fight against the pandemic is taking resources away from other critical health challenges.

Seeing the present scenario, we all want to hear those golden words from God to be courageous and strong enough to surpass. To help strengthen our faith in such an uncertain time, I'm sharing some encouraging reminders on how to keep your trust in God during a global pandemic. There are many reasons to take strong strong courage today because:-

1. God himself is with us: Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous.



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### BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS

Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. (Joshua 1:9)

Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you." (Deuteronomy 31:6)

We can take courage because we aren't facing our challenges alone. God, the creator of the universe, the all-powerful ONE, is right here with us. He's not far off and uninvolved. When we don't know what to do, he does. He's never tired, never weary, never takes a break.

2. God has plans for us: The following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome." (Act 23:11).

God has a plan for each one of his children, and he will fulfill that plan. We don't have to fulfill some destiny for ourselves; God is accomplishing his work through us. And he never fails to complete his plans.

3. Jesus has overcome the World: I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33).

Jesus said we'll have tribulation in this world. We shouldn't be surprised by it. If we look at this world alone, we'll lose heart. But we can take heart and take courage, for Jesus is greater than the world and he has already overcome it. Nothing in this world can defeat our Mighty Conqueror. And he has overcome the world for us.

4. Nothing can separate us from God's Love: For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39).

No matter what we are going through, we can be assured that it hasn't separated us from Christ's love. And if he loves us, we can take

heart that he will protect us, provide for us, guide us, and help us. Nothing in all creation can separate us from his love. Whether we lose our jobs or our homes or our health or even our minds, Jesus will hold us in his love and never let us go. So, take courage and stay strong.

5. God himself will strengthen us: Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. (Isiah 41:10)

We don't have to somehow summon up strength from within ourselves. If you don't think you have the strength to make it through, well, you're absolutely right. We don't have the strength to part the Red Sea, but God does. And he will pour his strength into us.

In the face of the coronavirus pandemic, where we have lost most of our valuable things; we have one thing in common that nobody can take away from within us and that is the power to choose our responses. When we

1. Choose faith over fear: For God has not given us a spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. (2 Timothy 1:7)

Fear can rob us of three essential gifts from God that we desperately need at this time. Power enables us to live a life of faith when it's not easy. Love enables us to share and sacrifice when it's not convenient. A sound mind allows us to experience peace, even when everything seems to be going wrong;

2. Wisdom over worry: If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. (James 1:5)

It is also wise to ensure the sources of the information we consume are credible. There is a lot of false information circulating about the coronavirus that can be harmful by leading people to make unwise decisions based on information that is simply untrue. Read credible news outlets and gain information; and





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BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS

3. Prayer over panic: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. (Philippians 4:6)

We can panic, or we can pray, but we can't do both. It's time to pray for God's intervention to stop the spread of this disease. It's time to ask for healing. It's time to ask for peace and comfort for those who have lost loved ones. It's time for us to ask for direction and discernment for our leaders and our homes. Prayer is powerful and effective, and if we are too busy panicking instead of praying, we forfeit our greatest strength;

we can experience the "peace of God, which surpasses all understanding" that we read about in Philippians 4:7. In doing so, we become the light of Christ in a very dark situation.



be  
COURAGEOUS

COURAGE





## Help To The Helpless During COVID Times





## Food Grain Distribution







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Col. Vineet Daniel

### MESSAGE ON FATHERS DAY

We know what an honour it is for fathers to have sons and daughters who pass on their legacy. Celebration of fatherhood began in the 5th century in the Coptic Orthodox Church of Egypt. The Catholic countries of Europe followed in the Middle Ages, celebrating St Joseph's Day to venerate the patron saint of fathers and families.

In the Protestant world, Father's Day came about later. Sonora Dodd was a lady from Washington in the US. Her mother had died giving birth to her later sibling, and the children had been raised up entirely by the father, a war veteran and a devout man. When she was attending her Methodist church once on Mother's Day, she thought that Father's Day should also be celebrated. His birthday was in June. Her church agreed, celebrating the first Father's Day on the 3rd Sunday of June, 1910. It gained popularity in the US and today over 90 nations celebrate it on this day.

Let us look at fatherhood from a Biblical perspective.

Firstly, the relationship of child with father. What does God tell the Children of Israel in the Ten Commandments? Actually He gave it in writing - on tablets of stone! In the 5th commandment, he tells them - (Exo 20:12) "Honour your father and your mother so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you". He was about to give them the land of Canaan - a land 'flowing with milk and honey'. Did they live long in the land? They certainly lived long in captivity under several foreign kings! Why was this a commandment? Probably because it is human nature to fight authority - first the authority of the father who wants to instill discipline in the house - then later rebel against the authority of God.

Fathers can make it easier for their children to give honour - by living with honour and giving honour to their parents themselves. When the children absorb this and give honour, they are open to good things - virtues, obedience and better learning. They become better people, better professionals, leaders in their society and government. Who can then unsettle such a people - who are in administration, law, high office - naturally they will live long and safe in the land.

Secondly, let's see the father's relation with the child - what might make one Dad better than another Dad?

- **Unconditional Love.** We look at one of the greatest teachings on fatherhood - the Parable of the Prodigal Son - who took his share of wealth and wasted it recklessly on wine and women, and then came back to the anger of his brother. But the father went out to receive and welcome him and threw a feast in celebration. What is the lesson for fathers? That father's love represents God's love - it is Unconditional love.

- **Self Introspection.** Psalm 119:59 says "I have considered my ways..." The man who can look within himself has an advantage. How do my children perceive me - gentle or harsh. A good listener? Will they confide in me? Am I there when they need me?

- **Maturity.** St Paul tells the Corinthians to grow up! 1 Cor 13:11

"When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me". When fathers act with maturity, children observe and become mature adults.





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• Teaching the Scripture. God has instructed the fathers very strictly to teach his commands to their children. Deut 6: 6-7 "These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."

Thirdly, beyond the earthly fatherhood is the Godly fatherhood. Eph 1:5 tells us "In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons..." He offers his fatherhood. Unfortunately the fatherhood of the devil is so easy to accept instead. The Pharisees, elite of Jewish society and interpreters of the scriptures, rejected Jesus, and he tells them why (John 8:44) - "You belong to your father, the devil".

St John warns (1 John 3: 9) "No one born of God will continue to sin...". St Paul warns the newly converted Galatians to stop their old ways (Gal 5:19-21) - "The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God."

If these works dishonour our earthly father, they dishonour our heavenly father as well, and He is not a God to be insulted by sin and still remain a father. Christianity is a very practical religion. We cannot have two fathers - both God and Devil. "No one can serve two masters..." (Matt 6.24). Are we discerning? Let us understand when guidance comes from the devil. Do we have discretion? Let us reject the devil. Are we decisive?

Let us choose the fatherhood of God.

Coming back to parenting, fatherhood does not come with a manual - fathers have to work at it. It is said that by the time a man realizes that maybe his father was right - he already has a son who thinks he's wrong!

Someone has brought out how we understand our father, over the years...

Childhood admiration...

4 years old : My Daddy's the strongest.  
8 years old : My Daddy knows everything.

Confidence of knowledge and youth ...

10 years : Daddy knows a lot, but my Teacher knows more

20 years : Dad's out of date.

Later issues of job, marriage, children, society...

30 years : Dad probably knows a bit about this.

40 years : I wonder what Dad might recommend.

50 years : Dad might have a better idea.

60 years : I wish I could discuss this issue with Dad.



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Mrs Waheeda Hussain  
PGT (English) Christ Church Boys' School

### I am Life

I hold treasures for brave hearts and strong minds.

If you run away from me  
My coffers you will never find.

I am for the one  
Who stands up after my powerful blow.  
I defy cowards and pessimists though.

My favourites are dauntless and courageous humans  
Who can face my moody temperaments.

Sometimes I am tempest I know  
But you can conquer me if you want to do so.

My challenges are tough and tricky  
And only valiant and gutsy  
Can embrace the prodigious victory.

If you endure the difficult times  
I vow I will always be joyful and kind.

### Today's Woman

Bold and daring  
Her head held high  
She springs forward  
Set to fly.

She her own master  
Strong , glowing and determined  
Lighting the spirits around her  
And enlightening her kind.

Epitome of faith and courage  
No longer a damsel in distress  
No longer frail, faint heart or feeble  
No longer only a bony lass.

She her own shield,her own sword  
She herself knight in shining armour  
Ready to conquer the world  
Reaching for a new horizon  
Today's Woman.









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### **Don't quit**

When things go wrong, as they  
sometimes will,  
When roads you're trudging seems all  
uphill,  
When the funds are low and the debts  
are high,  
And you want to smile, but you have to  
sigh,  
When care is pressing you down a bit,  
Rest, if you must, but don't you quit.

Life is queer with its twist and turns,  
As everyone of us sometimes learn,  
And many a failure turns about,  
When he might have won had he stuck  
it out;  
Don't give up through the peace seems  
slow-  
You may succeed with another blow.

Success is a failure turned inside out-  
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,  
And you never can tell how close you  
are,  
It may be near when when it seems so  
far,  
So stick to the fight when you are  
hardest hit-  
Its when things seem worst that you  
must not quit.

-Satwick Singh(12th)  
Christ Church Boys' School

### **With Courage We Can Emerge Stronger**

In the lap of dawn, sleeps the darkest  
hour,

In the heart of the darkest hour,  
dreams the divine star.

Its blistering Sun that turns winds on,

After tides high and low, the sea goes  
calm.

Its light and thunder that drive cool  
zephyr,

Then heaven pours the rain to  
extinguish the fire.

In the bosom of night, evolves the cool  
of mist,

Like an unending saga, elements of life  
exist.

If turmoil has marred your way, be  
sure you are still in the fray.

Clouds look ominous when they are  
grey, they too have a silver lining  
hidden somewhere away.

-Mrs. Mansee Govil  
Christ Church, Saliwada





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### *Power of Woman Who Leads*

I recently read a book written by Gale M. Hayes on the "Power of Woman Who Leads" and the center character of this book was Deborah. What attracted me to this book was the picture of Deborah, wife of Lappidoth, sitting at work under that palm tree in the hill country of Ephraim as the people of Israel including many wise men who came up to her for advise / judgment, it was such a powerful depiction of women power in those days.

As we read more about who Deborah was, it's very evident that she was one of the most influential women mentioned in the Bible. She is known for her wisdom and courage and she is the only woman in the Old Testament who is known for her own faith and action. As a wife, mother, prophetess, judge, poetess, singer, and political leader, her life is a wonderful illustration of the power that womanhood has to influence society for good.

The bible describes Deborah as a strong woman used by God to exercise strategic leadership among God's people. The more we see how the Bible shows us Deborah's strength, the better we see its beauty and importance. Below are four observations about this story of a strong woman.

#### **Deborah's story lifts our eyes to God**

As we read in the Bible how God delivered the Israelites, we can see how God choose Deborah who played an important part of God's redemption plans for humanity, she was a simple woman until she derived the strength



Johanna Marylin Thangadurai  
Christ Church Cathedral

from God to play her part. The important point to note here is that, there is no strength on its own but that given by the God the creator in whom is eternal life and strength. The story of Deborah is an excellent example of how God often chooses to raise up unlikely men and women to lead his people and use them for his saving purpose.

When we celebrate the strength of Deborah, we celebrate first the all - powerful God in whose plans Deborah takes up an important part.

#### **Deborah speaks God's word**

The first thing Scripture tells us about Deborah is that she was a prophetess, the term prophetess means that God spoke through Deborah. Deborah trusted in the word of God. She understood that God alone is able to do what he says he will do. So, when God said that Barak and Israel would defeat the Canaanite army, Deborah believed God and did as she was told. She did not need to have her trust in God confirmed by the responses of others.

Just as Deborah trusted God's words to her, we, too, can trust the words God speaks to us. Deborah took the time to hear God's voice and obey. Trusting that God's words to her were true came easy because she was used to listening to God and obeying Him.

As we celebrate the strength of Deborah, we celebrate a woman on whose tongue lay God's word.

#### **Deborah obeys God's word**



## Diocese Of Jabalpur Church Of North India

Deborah not only speaks God's word, she obeys it. Along with her words is evident a heart of submission to God's revealed plan. When God commanded Barak to lead out Israel's army as deliverer of Israel, we see that Deborah communicates God's Commands directly to Barak, she duly respects Barak for the role he has been chosen for, hence we can see that when Barak was afraid to lead the army alone and asks for Deborah to accompany him, Deborah does not belittle him or doubt God's ability to fulfill his word, instead we see her agreeing to go with him but also challenges Barak for his lack of faith and does not fear to tell him he is not trusting God as he should be.

Judges 4:9 "Certainly I will go with you," said Deborah. "But because of the course you are taking, the honor will not be yours, for the LORD will deliver Sisera into the hands of a woman." So Deborah went with Barak to Kedesh.

As we celebrate the strength of Deborah, we celebrate a woman who speaks and obeys God's word but also a woman who does not hesitate to point one's lack of faith in God.

### **Deborah sings God's word.**

Deborah not only spoke God's word, she obeyed it, and finally she sings it. Deborah sings glory to God for his deliverance of his people, including the destruction of their enemies. She praises him for accomplishing those purposes through willing male leaders, through Jael, "most blessed of women" and through herself - "mother of



and through herself - "mother of Israel". Deborah signs on the blessing of both women and men offering themselves willingly to the Lord, to do the distinct jobs he calls them to do.

When we celebrate the strength of Deborah, we celebrate a woman who sings God's glory with all her heart!! Through her song Deborah bears witness to the ways God uses men and women to serve him

Deborah had a wonderful influence on people and shows us the most effective way women "lead" in the Lord's church. Deborah's life was lived in such a way that she earned "respect" from everyone (Judges 4:4,5), her influence led to a "strengthening" of others (Judges 4:24a), she was a source of strength to all who came to her.

Like Deborah, may more and more strong, godly women speak the word, obey it, and sing it with all our hearts, for the glory of Christ our Lord.



By: Ms Johanna Thangadurai

Reference: The Power of Woman Who Leads" written by Gale M. Hayes





## Diocese Of Jabalpur Church Of North India

### BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS



Mrs. Jenny Parihar  
WFCs President  
Christ Church Cathedral (CNI), Jabalpur.

Yes - I say Be strong and courageous in the Lord.

In every generation, all of us are challenged by the directive at various times and seasons in our lives. School, Family, Jobs, marriage, Children, Homes, Social norms along with many others, all give us ample opportunities from lesser to greater degree to be courageous and strong.

A primary and very real example of courage that gets a lot of attention in our society these days is having the ability to express yourself without fear of people's judgments. "To Be Your Authentic Self" as its often said. This is indeed one form of courage, but courage in a deeper sense, a spiritual sense lies in what you are willing to let go of, for the good news of Jesus Christ. It takes this unflinching and unyielding courage to lay your life down, and live in Him, to "bear your cross daily" come what may. Only when we truly have the courage to empty our selfish tendencies and ego, can we be fully courageous for God. When we can let go of our own goals, ambitions and securities, we can find the courage to let God do with us what He wills. His will is our ultimate purpose in life, when we pray, "May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven". Let your will be done in my life.

The opposite end of the life spectrum is death. Dealing with death takes an immense amount of strength and courage. Way too often, death is a reality that touches us all through family, friends, acquaintances and sometimes even total strangers.

For believers, our earthly death brings us to life with our Heavenly Father. This is where our true citizenship is. That is the kind of courage we are called to pursue, a courage that says "O' death where is your sting?" because we know our life is entirely in God's hands. It is the same courage that David had with Goliath, Daniel had in the Lion's Den and Moses had against Pharaoh. The word of God gives us the courage to be strong and courageous....bravery to be who God has called us to be.

Because death is a triumph and victory brings you into the presence of our Heavenly Father, we are willing to stand firm, even if it means death. May God bless you abundantly. This book of law shall not depart from our mouth, but we shall meditate on it day and night, so that we may be careful to do according to all that is written in it: and then it goes on to say "for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." - Joshua 1:8-9.

We all face situations in life when we feel scared and alone. However, we can take courage from what this Bible verse says. We don't have to be scared or dismayed because the Lord is with us wherever we go. Many a times we want to turn away from situations that seem scary or overwhelming. However, we can face those situations with confidence when we take God at His word. When we realize that we're not alone and that God is with us we will never be afraid to face any situation. You don't need to be afraid, God is with you.

So rest assured, The Lord has given us a promise to be with us always, "Fear not for I am with you" - Isaiah 41:10.

Therefore Be strong and courageous in the power of His Might.



**Diocese Of Jabalpur  
Church Of North India**

# ART







**Diocese Of Jabalpur  
Church Of North India**

## *Tribute Of A Son To His Father*



Manan Tiwari



**Diocese Of Jabalpur  
Church Of North India**

## OBITUARY



**Rev R P Titus**

06-08-1947 To 27-04-2021

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.  
Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness,  
which the Lord, the righteous Judge,  
will award to me on that day—and not only to me,  
but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

2 Tim 4-7

Rev. R. P. Titus one of the Senior Pastors of Diocese of Jabalpur fell asleep in the Lord on the 24th of April 2021. He started his service on 4th August 1968 at CNI Chhindwara MP(Hon Service) Rev R P Titus was ordained as a lay leader in 1998 and on 16th May 1999 was ordained as Presbyter.

Rev Titus was officially appointed as Presbyter in charge of St Marks Church Chhindwara from 01st June 1999.

Rev R P Titus served the Diocese of Jabalpur for almost 53 years.

Rev Titus contribution and expertise in the field of education have been widely acknowledged. His support to the diocese physically, spiritually and financially will always be remembered.

As we mourn his passing away, the Moderator CNI, Synod and Bishop of Jabalpur Diocese The Most Rev Dr P C Singh recognizes and remembers his invaluable contribution to the Diocese of Jabalpur. He will be remembered as one of the most respected, caring and loving pastor of the Diocese of Jabalpur.

May his soul rest in peace and memory be eternal.







**Diocese Of Jabalpur  
Church Of North India**

*Be Strong  
AND  
Courageous*

Have you ever felt as though you didn't have the strength to overcome a challenge you're facing? Or perhaps you feel that the task at hand is way beyond your abilities, and you're wondering why you're even trying to do it. You may have put in for a promotion at work, but you're unsure whether you'll be able to handle it. And yet you hear a voice inside you saying, "There's more in store for you. You can do this. You can do this." It's always pushing you, but too often you push back because it's the comfortable thing to do, and you let it pass.

I want to encourage you today that God is going to call you to do things that are way over your head. Because he wants you to go beyond your ability. Don't shrink back. Don't put limitations on yourself. You have exactly what you need inside, but the only way it's going to come out is if you stand strong and find it, because God is your confidence.

This is what happened with Elijah, there had been a three and half years drought in Samaria, without rain the Israelites will go to perish. There was no food no way to grow crops. Elijah went on top of Mount Carmel and began to pray for rain, but nothing happened. He prayed again and again and again checked the weather looked for clouds still nothing happened. Finally on the seventh time they saw a small cloud start to form in the sky. Now Elijah told King Ahab that he better get in his chariot and quickly leave because there was about to be a huge downpour.

The scripture says; the lord gave Elijah the special strength. (1 Kings 18).

When god gives us special strength we accomplish things we have never dreamt

off. God says, "My grace is all you need, for my power is greatest when you are weak." (2 Corinthians 12:9). That means that whatever we're facing today, God has all the strength we need for it. He's saying, "My grace is sufficient for today. Everything we need is here today." Our problem comes when we try to work on tomorrow's grace. We say, "But what about tomorrow, God?" and He says, "Don't worry about tomorrow. Just work on today. I have tomorrow handled." Looking ahead we start to question ourselves and let doubts and fears creep in. "Maybe I'm not good enough or smart enough. Maybe I don't have what it takes." And that leads us down the unhappy road to mediocrity.

God has already equipped us to do whatever He's calling us to do. He put abilities in us that we don't know are there. So let us not shrink back and think we don't have the talent—it's already there. God says, "Do not be afraid- I am with you! I am your God -let nothing terrify you! I will make you strong and help you; I will protect you and save you." (Isaiah 41:10), and His strength will empower us in our weakness. Whenever we feel fear and doubt, we have to say, "God, it's you and me. When I'm weak, you're strong. We're a majority. I know that when I am walking in your strength, nothing can defeat me. You'll add to me all that I need today. You'll open the right doors for me. You'll give me the ideas. You'll renew my strength. I will not give up. We can do this together!"

Let us take this step of faith and do it boldly for our Lord is the only one who will make us strong and courageous.

Ms. Ayushi Luke  
(Christ Church Boys' Sr. Sec. School)



## Diocese Of Jabalpur Church Of North India



-Sub Insp Azinque Parihar  
CISF

### BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS

"Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me," are the words of psalms 23 that aptly motivates us to be strong and courageous. The guiding light of the Almighty is a ray of hope and comfort that lets us embrace every challenge that comes across our way.

The present scenario that the whole nation is going through, the SARS COV-2 or the corona virus, has shown us a whole new angle of trials, tribulations and challenges that we as citizens are grappling with. Yet time and again nature has taught us to be strong and courageous and to unite as one body to fight all odds and shun all evil attacks by the power of the Holy Spirit.

When I sit back and relax at home with my wife, we often talk about the time that we spent at the valley (I was posted in Kashmir). Anyone who would visit that place would be mesmerized and would fall in love with the serene view and the beatific silence that it offers. But the silence would turn ugly with the blink of an eye when our neighbor, Pakistan, would invoke heavy shelling leading to ceasefire violations and compelling us (the soldiers) to give them a befitting reply. With the adrenaline rush flowing through our veins we were always encouraged to embrace all challenges and to be strong and courageous because we knew that the eternal light was shining on us and guarding us from all external attacks. This kept us motivated and kept us going.

Quoting instances from the Bible when David bravely defeated Goliath, how Noah built his ark and surmounted the impossible, Daniel's courage to not give in, etc has time and again given us the perseverance to stay strong.

Let us embrace ourselves for the betterment, be more humble towards one another, work for a common cause to promote humanity and face all challenges that we come across by being strong and by the grace of the Almighty God that is omnipresent and omniscient.

-Sub Insp Azinque Parihar  
(CISF)

BE COURAGEOUS  
or  
be  
strong





## Diocese Of Jabalpur Church Of North India



Isaac Abishegam Thangadurai  
Christ Church Cathedral

"Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise. The gift of language combined with the gift of song was given to man that he should proclaim the Word of God through music."—Martin Luther

Have you ever wondered who introduced singing as a part of our worship and why do we sing so many songs during our worship?

History says that singing has always played an important part in Christian worship. Jesus himself sang a hymn with the disciples at the Last Supper (Matthew 26:30). After Jesus' death and resurrection, the early Christian church continued singing psalms of praise when they gathered together to worship.

Fifteen-hundred years later Protestant reformers re-established the importance of congregational singing. Each new generation has developed what they thought was their own unique perspective on the best way to sing praise to God, but—with a few rare exceptions—they have all agreed: singing is a necessary part of worship. This belief was not based simply on tradition but on biblical truth - the Bible contains over four hundred references to singing and fifty direct commands to sing.

Singing is an important part of who we are and who God created us to be. We are all wired uniquely, and all of us have different gifts, strengths and styles of music. Scripture encourages us to find the music that allows our hearts to sing and connect to God.

Music that honors God will cause our hearts to sing and when our hearts sing, worship happens, and we are transformed on the inside as we are filled with the Spirit and devote everything we are to worship, praise, and thanksgiving to our heavenly Father.

Let's examine a few reasons why singing during worship is so important

1. God is worthy - There is no other name that is worthy of all praise, glory, honor, and renown. The glory of God demands our praise and we respond with joy by singing.

2. Singing Unifies the Church- Singing is the easiest way to bring together a large group of people in worship.

3. God Commands it - The Word of God doesn't suggest that we sing. It is a command "Sing to him a new song..." (Psalm 33:3).

4. God Sings - Our God is a singing God. "He will exult over you with loud singing..." (Zeph. 3:17).

5. Speaking is not Enough - The glory of God cannot simply be talked about, we need to sing.

6. Thinking is not Enough - The glory of God cannot simply be thought about and kept inside our minds. We need to sing.

7. Singing Helps Us Express our Worship - Great worship songs help us express ancient truths in fresh ways. They help us say what our hearts have always wanted to say.



## **Diocese Of Jabalpur Church Of North India**

8. Singing Engages the Full Range of our Emotions – Singing helps us express. It helps us engage our entire being in worship and praise to God.

9. Singing Truth Builds Faith –When life's circumstances are overwhelming, singing God's word builds our faith and reminds us of what is constant.

10. Music is an Essential Part of our Culture – Music is everywhere. Great music can assist us in reaching those who are far from God.

11. Music Reaches the Heart where Mere Debate Cannot – Music can reach the human spirit where mere debate cannot. It can soften our hearts and make us more receptive to the truth.

12. Singing Silences the Enemy – When the enemy tries to attack your life or church, the raised voice of faith in the promises of God will drive him away. "Let God arise, and His enemies be scattered..." (Psalm 68:1).

13. Singing Helps us Remember Truth – When you combine God's Word with a catchy melody, it is much easier to remember and recall God's promises.

It is important we realize that singing itself is a form of worship. The focus of our singing is ultimately not the singing itself, but the God which it praises. We do not have to be extremely talented to praise God, but the most important thing is that we participate in singing during worship. Our singing should be an honest and joyful expression of who we are in Christ.



By: Issac Thangadurai



 Congratulations



*Dr. Priyanka Rebecca Singh*

*On Completion Of Your MBBS*

**BEST WISHES  
FROM  
THE DIOCESAN FAMILY**





Have I not commanded you ? Be Strong And Courageous  
Do Not Be Afraid and Discouraged, For Your Lord God Will Be With You