

## Vol I.06 ... January 21

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### Highlights!

Initiatives thru ideation process among MGAs:

#### MGA Registration

MGA incorporated as a *Not For Profit- NFP* body in US and registered under the name *Montfort Global Associates-NFP*.Core Group working on the Byelaws.

**MGA Global Meet 2022** To hold the next MGA Global Meet in 2022.Matter being actively pursued.

#### MGA Monthly Zoom Meet

Monthly Zoom Meet held on 12 December 2020 at 1900 Hrs IST to strengthen the MGAs across all countries.

#### Ranjitsinh Disale

Ranjitsinh Disale,a government school teacher from Maharashtra wins Global Teachers Prize

**MGA Global Meet Revisited** A visual parade of MGA Global Meet 2019 Muvattupuzha

**Covid Vaccine** Vaccine to combat Covid19 rolls out to the Public.

## Message from Pope Francis

Pope Francis used his Christmas message to say that coronavirus vaccines must be available for all, and pleaded with states to cooperate in the race to emerge from the pandemic. *Today, in this time of darkness and uncertainty during the pandemic, different lights of hope appear, like the discovery of the vaccines ... they must be available to everyone*, the Pope said during his traditional Urbi et Orbi (to the city and the world) message at the Vatican. *I beg all those in charge of states, of companies, of international bodies ... to promote cooperation and not competition and to seek a solution for everyone, vaccines for all, especially for the most vulnerable and needy in all regions of the globe.*

Pope Francis called for *generosity and support*, particularly towards those experiencing unemployment, hardship and domestic violence during the pandemic.



*Pope Francis ...*

This year the Pope stressed the importance of helping the needy, pointing out in his homily that Jesus was born an outcast. "The Son of God was born an outcast, in order to tell us that every outcast is a child of God," he said. Friday's blessing concludes a muted year for the Pope, whose activities have been heavily curtailed by the pandemic.

## Global Economic Outlook

The coronavirus pandemic still dominates the global economic outlook heading into 2021, with the second wave of the virus prompting renewed national lockdowns in Europe and tighter restrictions in the US. This will compress economic activity in the immediate months ahead, albeit by much less than in April.

But a vaccine rollout now looks imminent and raises the prospect of a significant easing in the global health crisis by the middle of 2021 and a more sure-footed economic recovery thereafter. Fitch Ratings now anticipates a double-dip recession in Europe in 4Q20. This highlights the importance of containing the virus for a fully fledged recovery, as underscored by China's impressive rebound.

## MGA Zoom Meet

**Zoom Meet** -Twelve MGAs participated in the Zoom meet which was held on 12 December 20. The participants included George Nellimatam, PD Wilson, Joe Pathyil, TM Simon, Mathew Kalladanthiyil, BO Sebastian, Thomas Kappen, Fr Jimmy Mathew, Cyriac Lukose, Reddy, MG Jacob, Shaju,

**MGA Byelaws-** MGA Joe Pathyil informed that since MGA has been incorporated as a Not For Profit (NEP) body, Byelaws of the registered body need to be accelerated.

Arising out of the discussions, it was proposed that the core team could be supported by a small team of volunteers.

Accordingly, it was suggested a team consisting of Sebastian Vattakunnel, Lawrence D'Souza and MG Jacob would undertake the task of drafting the MGA Byelaws to enable the core team to pursue the matter. MGA Sebastian Vattakunnel who could not

join the Zoom Meet due to technical snag informed thru whatsapp about his willingness to undertake the assignment of drafting the MGA Byelaws.

It was agreed that the task would cover the jurisdiction, Aims and Objectives, Articles of Association, Byelaws, Rules and Regulations of the MGA - NEP etc.

**MGA Global Meet 2022-**During the discussions on holding the next MGA Global Meet, several factors of suitability of place, venue, time and affordability were taken into account.

Arising out of the discussions, the venues identified were in the order of Yercaud, Bangalore followed by Hyderabad.

It was agreed that the ideal time to hold MGA Global Meet in India was the last week of December.

It was suggested that a Zoom Meet may be planned exclusively to hosting next MGA Global Meet in 2022.

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## Idea.. Action

Say Yes to Action:

1. Telling Experiential Stories from Brothers and MGAs to share, care and nurture.
2. Inspiring Brothers and MGAs to bring out their talents for greater use.
3. Continuing to remain connected digitally through regular News Snippets
4. Reaching out to all MGAs scattered across countries and provinces:  
*Each One Bring One* for the Next MGA Zoom Meetings.  
*Share Joys and Sorrows* Birthdays, Anniversaries etc to greet and be greeted.
5. This issue features *The Joy of Giving* as BO Sebastian speaks to you while the *Jo Pathyil Story Telling* continues through the life of Br John of God.
6. Experience the achievements of a motivated primary school teacher from Maharashtra who won the Global Teachers Prize.

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## Out of The Box

Initiate action to remain happy and foster a Happy Group of MGA

1. Discover the Diamonds in us, amidst us
2. Expedite the MGA Registration
3. Start working on the Aims and Objectives and Byelaws of Global nature
4. Reach out to MGAs who are not in the whatsapp groups and email.
5. Update MGA Information, Address, Contact Numbers
6. Get pictures of all MGAs and their family .
7. Plan to bring out a MGA Directory of Members.
8. Reach out to One or Two MGAs every month, speak to him to make him happy and pray for him.

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## Contact Information:

MGA PD Wilson

Phone +918921756856

wilsonpariyadan@gmail.com

## Quotes Inspire

*Beautiful sayings :1.Celebrate endings—for they precede new beginnings.2.You'll never get bored when you try something new. There's really no limit to what you can do. 3. Do not wait until the conditions are perfect to begin. Beginning makes the conditions perfect.4.o the old, long life and treasure; to the young, all health and pleasure. 5 The best is yet to come 6. We spend January 1 walking through our lives, room by room, drawing up a list of work to be done, cracks to be patched. - Various*



# Random Remembrances-Br John of God By Jo Pathyil . .

## 0.1 The First Encounter

*(Jo Continues his Journey thru the Spectrum of Br John of God - a Jewel in the Crown of Excellence ...)*



*Joe Pathyil Recalls . . .*

My first courtesy meeting with Bro. John of God was the day I arrived in Coonoor. It was the end of May, 1947, and Bro. John wanted to meet the new youngsters who had arrived with Bro. Bernard and Bro. John of the cross.

Eappachan and I were the last two to arrive that year. Bro. John met with my father who had accompanied us to check the place out.

Bro. John spoke fluent Malayalam. As I learned later he had been the recruiter of youngsters for the juniorate for several years, and had handed over the job to Bro. Stanislaus only the year before. Bro. John was preparing to go to Hyderabad, to assume the directorship of All Saints

## 0.2 Different Facets

Rayappa was recruited from Pondicherry, finished his high school in Tindivanam, and the Brothers sent him to St. Joseph's College, Trichy for his B.A.

After he graduated with a B.A., he was sent to France for his Novitiate. Thereafter he went to London to do his teacher's training and earned the degree of L.C.P. Armed with these experiences Bro. John of God (as he was called in religion) returned to India.

His first posting was in Hyderabad under the tutelage of Bro. M. Paul who was the rector of All Saints. Those were tough years, and Bro. Paul was an able administrator and strict with the young Brother. Even though Bro. John was the official principal of the school, Bro. Paul trained him to do everything, including looking after sports equipments. Bro. John never complained. As a matter of fact he never criticized Bro. Paul and gave him the reverence due to a mentor. Those formative years stood him in good stead.

His appointment as headmaster of St. Antony's High School, Coonoor, and director of the community gave Bro. John the opportunity to hone his skills as an admin-

istrator, and a people person. He organized the Old Boys Association, which in turn was in charge of annual football and hockey tournaments. These tournaments brought hundreds of spectators to the school. These events also raised funds for the construction of new class rooms for the burgeoning student population. Bro. John was popular among the civic authorities and prominent planters in and around Coonoor.

His tact and influence were absolutely necessary during those war years. The juniorate was filling with youngsters whom Bro. John recruited from Kerala and Tamil Nadu. After high school, they moved on to the Novitiate that had been established under Bro. Michael. These houses of formation needed buildings. They also needed to be fed clothed. Everything during the war years was rationed. It was the influence of Bro. John that enabled all to be adequately fed and clothed.

As independence of India was imminent, he persuaded the education department to allow him to start an accelerated teachers training school, to prepare teachers for new India.

Suffice it to say that the young scholastics who had just completed their novitiate benefited by the teachers training program which could be complete in twelve months, instead of the usual two years. Bro. John did yeomen service to the school, to the community and to the growth of the brothers in India. St. Antony's was on a sound footing and Bro. John would always remember Coonoor as his first love.

In 1947 Bro. John was asked to take over the Directorship of All Saints, Hyderabad. As he had worked there earlier, he was familiar with the school and teachers and Nizam's Hyderabad. In addition he was fluent in Urdu and Telugu.

Independence of India brought problems to Hyderabad. The Nizam refused to join the Indian Union. Sardar Vallabhai Patel had to use force to bring the state under the union. Patel's handpicked state administrator was Vellodi, a Malayalee.

One of the first persons whom Vellodi contacted was Bro. John. They became friends and Bro. John was his unofficial advisor. Vellodi accorded special privileges to "native" Hyderabad residents in schools, colleges, and government employment for certain number of years. With Hindus and Muslims, Telugu and Urdu, the administrator had to walk on egg shells. Bro. John was an invaluable help.

## 0.3 Leading By Example

The popularity of All Saints ascended by leaps and bounds. It was necessary to find new premises for the burgeoning student population. Bro. John started satellite schools, and in time became autonomous schools in their own right. Thus were started St. Peter's, Little flower, and St. Paul's schools. He also started an industrial school and

orphanage on the outskirts of Hyderabad.

Bro. John was a member of the provincial council of administration. He persuaded the Provincial superior to send young brothers to Hyderabad, where they would teach by day, and attend college by night.

He himself set an example by doing his M.A privately. Bro. John informed Bro. Eleazar, the provincial superior, about everything that he was doing. Since they both had the prosperity of the new province in mind, they worked together.

Occasionally Bro. Eleazar would call Bro. John “The nawab”, but never did Bro. John utter one bad word about his provincial.



Thatha ...

#### 0.4 Always Reliable

In 1958, after eleven years in Hyderabad, Bro. John was asked to assume the directorship of Kazipet, and to be in charge of the juniorate as well as the scholasticate. There too he got permission to start a teachers training school, benefitting young brothers.

St. Gabriel's School under the principalship of Bro. Vincent was a smooth running institution, with a big boarding facility for the poor and the very rich of the state. Therefore Bro. John spent more time in the new teachers' training school, and the formation of the young brothers. A few brothers got admitted to the local government college, again under the influence of Bro. John.

In 1962 when I was transferred from Coonoor to Kazipet, Bro. John was only too pleased to hand over the reins to a younger hand, leaving him more time to look after the formation of the young brothers. His proximity was invaluable to me. He suggested, without imposing; he assured me, rather than warn; he introduced me to government and civic authorities, thus making the transition smooth and painless.

All the years that I was in Kazipet, and later in Nalgonda, I made it my privilege to consult him on all matters- school, community, personal, and spiritual. His advice was sound and practical.

In 1965 I was asked to be the director of All Saints. I begged my superiors to defer the responsibility, as I was re-evaluating my calling.

Bro. John accepted to be the director of All Saints one more time, hoping that I would return after my sojourn in Europe for my second novitiate.

I did not return and the superiors had to find someone else to direct the affairs of All Saints.

Bro. John asked to retire and spend his last years in quietude and prayer. He went to Yercaud and spent his remaining years as a model religious.

In the annals of Montfort Brothers in India, the name of Bro. John of God should be inscribed in golden letters.

( Joe Pathyil)

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### The Joy of Giving By BO Sebastian

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BO Sebastina writes....

*On the Joy of Giving even as the pendulum of life oscillates between being pulled towards holding on to things, persons or emotions and being pushed into leaps of joy through sheer generosity of sharing and giving. Read on..*

Charles Dickens' *Christmas Carol*, O' Henry's *The gift of the Magi*, Shel Silverstein's *The giving tree*, Pearl S. Buck's *A Christmas day in the morning* and the play by Wallace Purling *There is no room in the inn* emphasize the joy of giving.

We read that the mean-spirited, miserly Scrooge is transformed by the Midas touch of the ghost of Jacob Marley. The years that followed he honours Christmas giving lavish gifts for the poor, treating his fellow human beings with kindness and warmth. Della and Jim are the wisest among who gives gifts by sacrificing their treasured belongings to buy gifts for the other in the Gift of the

Magi.

*No room in the Inn* depict the best message of giving. The weak and weary Joseph begged repeatedly for a room to stay at night. Wallace the inn keeper bluntly tells Joseph for the third time there was *no room in the inn* as per his dialogue. Wallace felt hurt watching Joseph sadly putting his arm around Mary and walking away. Genuinely upset Wallace, eyes with tears, departed from his memorized script. He called out, *Please, do not go, there is no room in the inn but YOU CAN HAVE MY ROOM*. It was the best Christmas play the audience had ever seen. He had a heart to share.

The Giving Tree gives all it has out of love. The boy, the tree's friend played, made crowns with leaves, climbed, swung on her branches, ate her apples and rested on her trunk. The tree and the boy enjoyed each other's company. As he grew up, he rarely came. Whenever he came the tree was delighted, to give apples, branches, even her trunk to build a boat. When he was old, he came to the tree and the tree asked him sadly to sit on the stump because she had nothing more to give. The boy sat on the stump and enjoyed the company of the loving tree. Yes, that is the joy of giving – to love and share.

Dear friends, giving is the master key to all joys, successes in all application of life. As humans, we are wired helping one another as a social activity. It creates a beautiful cycle of smile triggering our mirror neurons. Both the giver and receiver benefit from the relationship.

Simple acts of kindness or courtesy like opening a door, helping a stranger, donating food, clothes, shelter, money or time, guidance are wonderful ways of giving.

As teachers and administrators, the exchange of pleasantries among colleagues and the taught, sharing knowledge, a smile, a pat, a look, a word of encouragement are positive strokes. These are effective ways to bring happiness to the giver and the receiver. This can be given multiple times a day at no cost. So, let us give, give the best, give often and bask in the mental and physical effects of our actions boosting our mood and health. *The power of giving is greater than the joy of receiving* says Norbert Harms.

Let peace, giving, sharing and caring dwell in our minds and hearts during this happy season and the New Year that dawns. Doesn't what go around come around? Personally, I had been blessed a hundred-fold whenever I gave something. For, *It is in giving that we receive* as Francis Assisi said. MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY, HEALTHY AND SAFE 2021.

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## January Events . . .

Several events are celebrated during the month of December around the world.

These are listed to invite the interest of the readers and stimulate their cerebral prowess.

1 January Global Family Day

8 January African National Congress Foundation Day

9 January NRI (Non-Resident Indian) Day or Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

11 January Death anniversary of Lal Bahadur Shastri

12 January National Youth Day

15 January Indian Army Day

23 January Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Jayanti

24 January National Girl Child Day

25 January National Voters Day

25 January National Tourism Day

26 January Republic Day

26 January International Customs Day

28 January Birth Anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai

30 January Martyrs Day or Shaheed Diwas- Mahatma Gandhi

30 January World Leprosy Eradication Day

MGAs may like to write on any of the above to demonstrate how these events have benefited human kind. Such writings would inspire others to nurture the humanity around us to demonstrate the Divinity that drives us on.

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## MGA GLOBAL MEET 2019 RECALLED

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**Memories Recalled** Lets revisit our Second Global Meet in Muvattupuzha...



*MGA Global Meet Revisited . . .*



*MGA Global Meet Revisited . . .*





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## MGA Global Meet Revisited . . .

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## Global Teachers Prize

**Ranjitsinh Disale** -Congratulations to Ranjitsinh Disale, a government school teacher from Paritewadi, Maharashtra, who had made history by not just winning the 1 million USD Global Teacher Prize but by deciding to share half of his prize money with the other nine finalists to support their *incredible work*.

He is best known for embedding QR codes in textbooks which was adopted by NCERT.

He has also worked towards eradicating teenage marriages in his village and promoting girls' education.

*The Covid-19 pandemic has exposed education and the communities it serves in a multitude of ways. But in this hard time, teachers are giving their best to make sure every student has access to their birthright of a good education,* said Disale.

*Teachers are the real change-makers who are changing the lives of their students with a mixture of chalk and challenges. They always believe in giving and sharing,* he said.

*"I believe, together, we can change this world because sharing is growing,* Disale added. Each of the other Global Teacher Prize finalists thus get around Rs 40.57 lakh each.

### **Ranjitsinh Disale's work as teacher in his village**

Disale initially wanted to become an IT engineer but his father suggested teacher as a career when his time at an engineering college didn't turn out as he had hoped. However, his experience in a teacher training college changed him.

When he first arrived to teach at the Zilla Parishad Primary School in Paritewadi village, the building was ramshackle

and sandwiched between a cattle shed and a storeroom, says a PTI report. Disale turned the whole scene around and translated the textbooks into the local language to help children study in their mother tongue.

Disale is well-known for his teaching work, which included adding QR codes to primary class books so that the children can get links to audio poems, video lectures, assignments and stories.

After Disale became the first to introduce QR codes in his school's textbooks, he submitted a proposal and a successful pilot scheme. In 2017, the Maharashtra government also decided to do the same across the state for textbooks of all classes.

The next year, the HRD ministry announced that all NCERT books across India would have QR codes embedded in them. He has also worked to spread awareness on the ills of teenage marriages and the importance of education for girls. Now, the village sees 100 percent attendance of girls at the school and no teenage marriage has been reported in long, says the PTI report. His work has made him a hero in his region.

### **Other work by the Global Teacher Prize 2020 winner**

Improving school education is not the only passion of Ranjitsinh Disale. He also works towards building peace between young people across conflict zones. He connects young people from India and Pakistan, Palestine and Israel, Iraq and Iran, and the US and North Korea through a *Let's Cross the Borders* project.

In this six-week programme, students are matched with a cross-border peace buddy with whom they interact closely. An incredible 19,000 students from eight countries have been initiated into this programme, thanks to Disale.

Moreover, the Global Teacher Prize 2020 winner has also built a science lab at his home and is well-known for demonstrating scientific experiments.

Disale also takes students with depleted resources from schools around the world on virtual field trips on his weekends, using the Microsoft Educator Community platform.

This is not the first time that the 32-year-old government school teacher has bagged an award for his work. He has also previously won the Innovative Researcher of the Year 2016 award, and the National Innovation Foundation's Innovator of the Year 2018 award. His work has also been mentioned in Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella's book *Hit Refresh*.



*Ranjitsinh Disale ...*



*Ranjitsinh Disale ...*

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**Welcome to 2021 ...**

MGA wishes you and family a Healthy Covid Free 2021 .





*2021 New Horizons of Health and Hope rise in each one of us and around us . . . End.*

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