

Vol I.08 ... March 21

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- Human Right to Water- Vital

Highlights!

Initiatives thru ideation process among MGAs:

MGA Core Matters

MGA Registration Completed. Core Group working on the Byelaws and Website.

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 27, Mar 21

Family, A Place Of Forgiveness -Pope Francis

Pope Francis' address at an interreligious meeting, delivered March 6, 2021, in the Plain of Ur, the birthplace of Abraham in Iraq:- *There is no perfect family. We do not have perfect parents. We are not perfect. We do not marry a perfect person or we do not have perfect children. We have complaints from each other. We are constantly disappointed.*

There is no healthy marriage or healthy family without the exercise of forgiveness. Forgiveness is vital to our emotional health and spiritual survival. Without forgiveness, the family becomes an arena of conflict and a fortress of evil. Without forgiveness, the family becomes sick. Forgiveness is the asepsis of the soul, the purification of the spirit and the liberation of the heart. He who does not forgive does not have peace in his soul or communion with God. Evil is a poison that intoxicates and kills. Keeping heartache in your heart is a self-destructive gesture. It's autophagy. Those who do not forgive are physically, emotionally and spiritually ill.



Pope Francis ...

For this reason, the family must be a place of life and not a place of death; a place of paradise and not a place of hell; A healing territory and not a disease; an internship of forgiveness and not guilt. Forgiveness brings joy where sorrow has brought sadness; of the Healing where sorrow has caused the disease,

Global Economic Outlook

A global economic recovery is in sight. More jobs, more jobs :Speeding up vaccine production and rollout is the best economic policy available today to boost growth and job creation. Vaccinate Fast. Invest Fast. Support People.

The pandemic is widening gaps in economic performance between countries and between sectors, risking long-term damage to job prospects and living standards for many people. Governments should invest in digital and green transformation and maintain income support for people and firms until economies can reopen fully.

MGA Matters

Zoom Meet -The monthly Zoom Meeting scheduled on 2nd Saturday of March has been postponed to the fourth saturday ie 27th March 2021. Main agenda of this meeting will be to discuss and finalise structure and content of the ongoing MGA Website development process. For this purpose, two prototypes of the MGA website have been submitted by the Web Designer John Mahesh. Content aggregation and Data Mining for the website is in progress. Efforts are on to launch the MGA Website officially on 28th of April 2021(Wednesday, feast of St. Montfort) or 1st of May 2021(Saturday, International Worker's Day - day of St. Joseph).

MGA Byelaws- Members were informed that Draft MGA Byelaws prepared by the support team of Sebastian Vattakunnel, PD Wilson and MG Jacob has been submitted to the Core Group .

MGA Global Meet 2022- This matter was not discussed and deferred to the next Zoom Meet.

MGA News Snippet - It was suggested that more and more MGAs may be encouraged to contribute contents and other inputs for the MGA News Snippet for wider reach and benefit all.

MGA News Snippet of March 2021 touches on the UN perspectives on Human Rights

With new OCI notification, India has ended its experiment with dual citizenship. The notification introduces a series of restrictions that dramatically curtails the rights and liberties of OCIs in India. A write up on this topic by T Prashant Reddy, well known lawyer is featured in this news snippet.

Celebration of International Women's Day in various countries are covered as well.

The March 21 edition also features a couple of poems.

The poem "I'm fine, how are you?... compiled by Denny Davis, might stir your funny bone and make you smile and grin wider at the realisation of one's aging reality.

Samuel Taylor Coleridge's Poem 'Youth and Age' tells you to remain young. You're only as old as you feel' might be a rough paraphrase of the main sentiment driving this poem, by one of English literature's leading Romantic poets. Because of this, it's an altogether more upbeat poem about growing old than some of the others included on this list. If we can but remain young in mind, then we are young, no matter that our bodies may be growing older. No: as Coleridge asserts, 'Youth and I are house-mates still.'

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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 *Before Your Child Goes to School* as BO Sebastian speaks to you while the *Jo Pathyil Story Telling* brings vivid memories of the earliest luminaries and pioneers of Brothers in India.
6. Experience two poems of relevance
7. The New OCI notification which in effect ends Dual Citizenship is an article of diverse implications for all those residing abroad. The desirability of taking up the concerns expressed in the article merits serious consideration accompanied by representation to GOI and follow up.
8. Go thru World Bank Document on Human Rights to Water and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights- this would serve as guiding light in every sphere of life.

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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 Website and finalise Byelaws
3. Complete 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

I have never let my schooling interfere with my education. - Mark Twain

Random Remembrances: Mani Mezhukunal By Jo Pathyil . . .

0.1 Earlier Luminaries

(Jo Continues his Journey with his memories of the pioneering Stalwarts)



Joe Pathyil Narrates . . .

0.2 Br M Paul - From Mangalore

Bro. Paul hailed from Mangalore. His early studies were in Tindivanam. He was not sent to Europe as others were. Perhaps the superiors saw in him a streak of stubbornness, and his reluctance to learn French as indicative of preference to stay in India. But Bro. Paul got along well in Montfort School, Yercaud where he was the school treasurer for many years.

When the Brothers were offered All Saint, Hyderabad, Bro. Paul (the M before his name was short for Majella) was sent as Director. He preferred the title of Rector. Since he did not have sufficient qualification to be the principal, some other person was named headmaster. But in actual fact Bro. Paul ran all the aspects of the school. He selected his own titular headmasters from among the lay teachers, though Bro. John of God, newly arrived from Europe, was headmaster for some years. All authority, however, was with Bro. Paul.

Bro. Paul was in charge of the school during all of World War II. Times were difficult. Hyderabad was under the rule of the Nizam. Bro. Paul was known to the Nizam, and the Rector astutely kept his relationship with the educational department and civic authorities in cordial terms. In spite of, or perhaps because of his strictness in all matters pertaining to the school, the students feared him, and the parents revered him. Years after he relinquished his rectorship, he returned to visit Hyderabad. There was a throng of old students and the public who crowded the railway station to receive him. The public reception accorded to Bro. Paul was historic. Very few brothers were sent to Hyderabad to work in All Saints. But those who went, did learn the art of administration from an expert.

In 1947 Bro. Paul relinquished his duties in Hyderabad. He was sent to St. Joseph's, Ooty as director. That one year in Ooty was more rest and relaxation than anything

else. He had a community of two young brothers, and Bro. Corentin who was the titular headmaster. The two young brothers remembered the strict treatment of Bro. Paul, and when they met their former director later in life, the listeners had a lot of fun. Bro. Paul had a wry sense of humor. The ribbing and the back-and-forth was all in fun.

Bro. Paul was a member of the provincial council, and therefore knew all the issues confronting the province. One major issue was the division of the community in Tindivanam. The French brothers ran the Industrial school, and a few Tamil brothers taught catechism in the nearby school and to the villagers. The French brothers functioned almost exclusively in French – prayers, food, recreation and daily life, whereas the Tamil brothers functioned entirely in Tamil. Such a division in one community had to be managed.

Bro. Paul was asked to take charge of the community. He took over the directorship and united the community. The common language of the brothers in chapel was to be English. The industrial school functioned in Tamil. The Tamil brothers were encouraged to teach in Tamil and communicate among themselves in Tamil. The French brothers communicated among themselves in French. But Bro. Paul insisted that the official language was English. There was no revolt or rebellion.

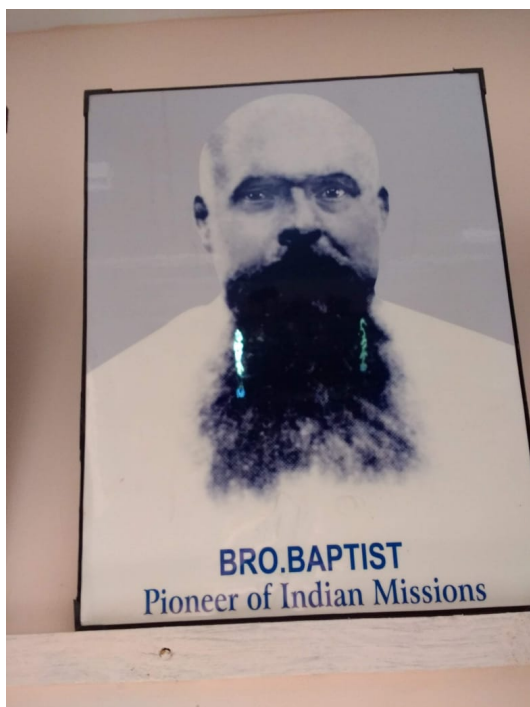
He negotiated with the diocese of Pondicherry to take over the orphanage, and the farm. Bro. Paul's reputation had heralded him, and therefore the priests, the brothers, the teachers and the students did not need to be told who he was. He was punctual, business-like and fair in all matters. The industrial school that had been languishing, became a source of income. More than the income, it was considered a model industrial school in the state.

In 1950 Bro. Paul secured seats in the teachers training school for young brothers, soon after their novitiate. Bro. Paul never seemed flustered with all the responsibilities: industrial school, orphanage, the community, brothers in training, the farm, and a host of other burdens of administration. He had time for everyone, and he joked and laughed with the youngsters, who in turn, ribbed him to the laughter of everyone. His was a happy and jovial community. And through it all, they imbibed his skills in administration.

In 1954, six years after being the director in Tindivanam, Bro. Paul had to be transferred, as per the rules. He was sent to St. Charles College, Sardhana, where there was already a community. His stint in Sardhana was short. A year later he returned to Tindivanam. Bro. Paul spent the final years of his life in Tindivanam. He is buried next to the farm that he loved. Bro. Paul was an institution, and a pillar of the young province.

0.3 Bro. Baptist

Bro. Jean Baptist was a contemporary of Bro. Eleazar. They both did their high school exams in Yercaud. Bro. Eleazar was sent to Loyola, while Bro. Baptist started teaching immediately after. The only two schools where he could have been posted were St. Patrick's, Secunderabad and Montfort School, Yercaud. It was to the latter that he was attached for many years in various capacities, including as director. Bro. Baptist knew the history of Montfort School as very few others did. He knew the students and old boys of the school. He was also the editor of the Link the magazine for the Old Boys association of the school.



Br Baptist ...

Bro. Baptist was a close confidant of Bro. Eleazar and his trusted councilor. The Provincial consulted him on every aspect of administration of the province. Bro. Baptist's sincere and honest advice was heeded by the Provincial. Even though he did not travel around as Bro. Eleazar did, he knew every brother and all important decisions. He edited the monthly newsletter and kept all the documents. He was the archivist of the province for many years.

Whenever and wherever a responsible person was needed, he was available. Thus he had short stints as director of Tindivanam and Sardhana. He was also a teacher of novices. But his great characteristic was his love of the province and his full support in the growth and development of the province.

Bro. Baptist spent many hours in personal conversations with me. While in Coonoor as headmaster, he visited with me for several days. Over a drink or three he told me stories and incidents that have seared in my memory.

Bro. Baptist too retired in France. Many years after I left

the society, we went to Nantes to visit him. Bro. Baptist was at a sea-side camp of the brothers. We spent a couple of days in his company. Bro. Baptist took me to the tiny chapel and opened his missal to show me the holy picture printed on the occasion of my perpetual vows. That was the thoughtfulness of a truly gentle friend to many. Bro. Baptist contributed a great deal to the growth and nurturing of the province.

0.4 Bro. Amance

Bro. Amance was the person ready to go anywhere, do anything, take charge of situations, fill up vacancies and a solid religious. He was principal of St. Antony's, Coonoor for several years, principal of St. Joseph's, Ooty a few years, headmaster of Montfort School, Yercaud for a few years, interim Novice Master for a few months, assistant to Novice Master at strategic times, Juniorate director for a short while, and a sincere advisor to the provincial superior.

When Singapore wanted a Novice Master and Director of Spiritual formation, he readily went. Though he did not strut around as an administrator, he was a straight shooter and accomplished much. After years in India and Malaysia he retired in France before his death. Bro. Amance contributed to the young province's growth substantially.



Other Earlier Luminaries Br Martin De Vertou ...

0.5 Bro. Claudien

Bro. Claudien was sent to France for his religious formation. He was a polyglot. In addition to Tamil, English and French, he could speak and read Malayalam, Hindi and Telugu. He did not go for higher education. He was a very

ardent religious. He practiced poverty as very few others did. He had minimum number of personal clothes, most of which he washed by hand. He travelled light and in the most economic mode.

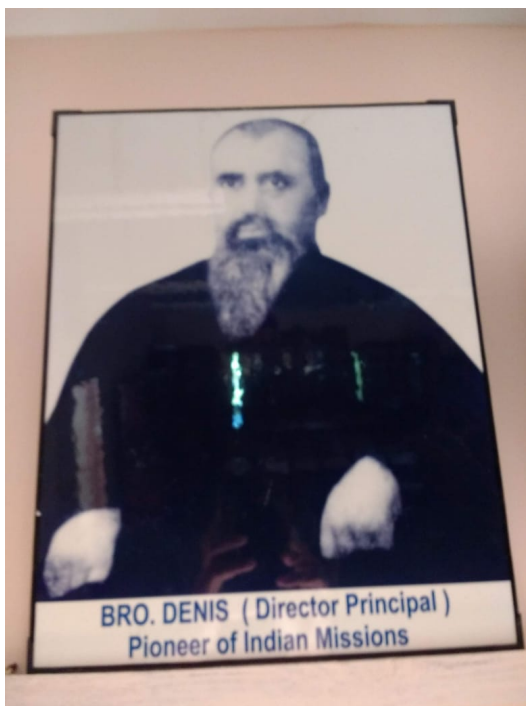
Bro. Claudien was the office manager of St. Antony's for many years. He was the one constant, steady presence when headmasters and administrators changed in that school frequently. Bro. Claudien knew every student in the school. Indeed he also knew most parents of the students. It was his ability as the connecting link that made it possible for Bro. John of God and other headmasters to appeal to old students in times of need.

After a very long sojourn in Coonoor, Bro. Claudien became the treasurer of Montfort School. There too his amazing memory for people, places and funds stood him in good stead. Never a person to waste money, he was, at the same time, willing to do anything that his superiors asked him.

After many years in Montfort, he was made the treasurer of the province and the secretary to the Provincial. In that capacity Bro. Claudien had to travel to various schools all over the country. His visits were short, but full of news of all the communities and including all the gossip details. Bro. Claudien was a keen observer of people and places.

Bro. Claudien did not want any directorship. However the tasks he performed, and did so expertly, were more than just being a director. He was meticulous, sincere in his love of the province and happy in its growth.

Bro. Claudien was torch bearer for the brothers.



Other Earlier Luminaries-Br Denis . . .

(Joe Pathyil)

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Before Your Child Goes to School . . .



BO Sebastina writes....

Dear Parents / Teachers, Jefferson said, *The happiest moments of my life have been the few which I have passed at home in the bosom of my family.*

We know education begins in the womb and ends in the tomb and the mother is the first teacher and the teacher is the second mother. Needless to say, the vital role of the parents and the teachers in early years of a child's growth.

Here is a story by Fr E H McGrath an expert on Managerial skills:-

Once upon a time the seedling of a Gulmohar tree had been transplanted near a school's compound wall. Like all Gulmohars it grew quickly and in six months it was over a meter tall. As it thrust its way skyward, the little branches multiplied. They were so well distributed that the sapling with its wonderful balance and form gave a quiet dignity to that corner of the compound.

One day a goat got into the compound and before anybody could drive it off, it had bitten six inches off the top of the tree. Six months of God's work gone in an instant! The little tree did not die, but it never was quite the same. Its shape, balance and dignity were affected. It did live on but something was gone.

A child's mind to a seedling: A child's mind is immeasurably more sensitive. Since the child's mind is a bundle of such mind staggering potential, only good treatment can nurture such magnificent growth. It all depends on how parents / teachers manage the development of that potential and particularly, in the first five years.

We know that it is during these years that the child learns to observe and wonder; to search and discover, to measure and weigh, to classify, distinguish; express, create; to see relationships and order; to see out new experiences and explore; to value themselves and feel confident of their ability to affect their surroundings. All these basic skills they learn or at least they could and should!

As parents most of us lavish attention to a child's physical development, but we tend to neglect the child's mental and emotional growth. This is tragic, for, the intelligence of the child is basically established during these five years

or before they go to school.

Psychologists emphasize that a child does not have a fixed amount of intelligence. The child's higher or lower level of intelligence depends largely on its environment and the quality and quantity of stimuli that it receives.

The size and texture of the child's brain depend to a great extent, on the nature and amount of stimulation it receives. Roughly, we can say: little stimulation small brain, much stimulation and variety of experience, larger brain. Heredity does put limits on the child's intellectual capacity but the upper limit is so high that few, if any, ever reach it.

A child's brain grows most rapidly as its body during the first five years. During this growing time, it is most subject to information. A child's intellectual capacity is developed 50 percent by the time it is four, and almost 80 percent by the time it is eight. After eight, growth slows greatly. A child's need to learn, explore, do something new is as strong as their need for food. Play for a child is not just fun; it is their ordinary and most effective way of learning. Dr. Maria Montessori Mr. Froebel has shown us the way in their educational system.

Do our homes, play schools or kindergartens give priority to the above? A hurting word or action can be like the bite of the goat. All children are born to grow, to develop, to live, to love, and to articulate their needs and feelings for their self-protection asks Alice Miller. (B O Sebastian)

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International Days Of Events . . .

Why do we mark International Days?

International days are occasions to educate the public on issues of concern, to mobilize political will and resources to address global problems, and to celebrate and reinforce achievements of humanity.

The existence of international days predates the establishment of the United Nations, but the UN has embraced them as a powerful advocacy tool. We also mark other UN observances.

Several events are celebrated around the world.

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

- 1 March Zero Discrimination Day [UNAIDS]
- 3 March World Wildlife Day (A/RES/68/205)
- 8 March International Women's Day
- 20 March International Day of Happiness (A/RES/66/281)
- 20 March French Language Day (French)
- 21 March International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (A/RES/2142 (XXI))
- 21 March World Poetry Day (UNESCO 30 C/Resolution 29)
- 21 March International Day of Nowruz (A/RES/64/253)

- 21 March World Down Syndrome Day (A/RES/66/149)
- 21 March International Day of Forests (A/RES/67/200)
- 22 March World Water Day (A/RES/47/193)
- 23 March World Meteorological Day [WMO] (WMO/EC-XII/Res.6)
- 24 March World Tuberculosis Day [WHO]
- 24 March International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims (A/RES/65/196)
- 25 March International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade (A/RES/62/122)
- 25 March International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members
- 3 March World Wildlife Day (A/RES/68/205)
- 8 March International Women's Day
- 2 April World Autism Awareness Day (A/RES/62/139)
- 4 April International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action (A/RES/60/97)
- 5 April International Day of Conscience (A/RES/73/329)
- 6 April International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (A/RES/67/296)
- 7 April International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda (A/72/49 (Vol. III) p.186 and A/RES/58/234)
- 7 April World Health Day [WHO] (WHA/A.2/Res.35)
- 12 April International Day of Human Space Flight (A/RES/65/271)
- 14 April World Chagas Disease Day [WHO]
- 20 April Chinese Language Day (Chinese)
- 21 April World Creativity and Innovation Day (A/RES/71/284)
- 22 April International Mother Earth Day (A/RES/63/278)
- 22 April (4th Thursday) International Girls in ICT Day [ITU] - on the Fourth Thursday of the Month
- 23 April World Book and Copyright Day (UNESCO 28 C/Resolution 3.18)
- 23 April English Language Day
- 23 April Spanish Language Day (Spanish)
- 24 April International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace (A/RES/73/127)
- 25 April International Delegate's Day (A/RES/73/286)
- 25 April World Malaria Day [WHO]
- 26 April International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day (A/RES/71/125)
- 26 April World Intellectual Property Day [WIPO]
- 28 April World Day for Safety and Health at Work
- 30 April International Jazz Day (UNESCO 36 C/Resolution 39)

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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I'm fine, how are you? ...

I'm fine, how are you?

There's nothing the matter with me,

I'm just as healthy as can be,

I have arthritis in both knees,

And when I talk, I talk with a wheeze.

My pulse is weak, my blood is thin,

But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

All my teeth have had to come out,

And my diet I hate to think about.

I'm overweight and I can't get thin,

But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

Arch supports I need for my feet.

Or I wouldn't be able to go out in the street.

Sleep is denied me night after night,

But every morning I find I'm all right.

My memory's failing, my head's in a spin.

But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

The moral of this as the tale unfolds,

Is that for you and me, who are growing old.

It is better to say "I'm fine" with a grin,

Than to let people know the shape we are in.

I'm fine, how are you?

(Compiled By Denny Davis) [Back to Contents](#)

Celebrations and Events

Birthday Wishes and Prayers of Remembrances to our near and dear ones...



Birthday Boy of the Month ...

Br John Kallarackal – Superior General



Superior General Reciprocates ...

Birthday Wishes and Prayers of Remembrances to our near and dear ones...

Prakash JB

Arockiaraj S

Benny Mathew Munjanattu

GabrielJamesFernando

George KJ

Jose(U C Jose)Uthirakulathu

MathewK J

Paul CChakkalackal

PaulPeter

Paulson C Joseph

Sebastian Mathew Pulpambil

Bro. Cyriac Pulickal, Trichy,

Bro. K C James

Events and Memories Recalled

Late Br CM Joesph and TK Joseph



Late Br CM Joseph ...

Br Varghese Thekkenath Bro. C.M. Joseph pioneered the first insertion community of Religious in India in 1973, listening to the call of Vat II and the Synod on Justice in the World. He left the securities of institutionalised Religious Life to live in a remote village in Hazaribagh Dst. in a room offered by a poor Muslim Family with two other companions.

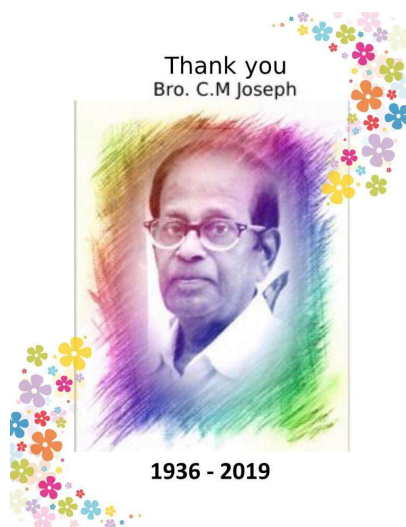
He continued such a mission of dialogue of life, mission and witness for the next 20 years or so, challenging religious to relook at community, vows, mission, spirituality and other fundamentals through alternative life and contextualised praxis. This became an inspiration for many other insertion communities of Religious in the 1970s and 80s.

The mission of the community itself was unique for the times and came to be called the 'Pauta Experiment'. He has left a great legacy of the meaning of Religious Life in the context of the poor, pluralism and growing fundamentalism in the country today. We pay him homage on 3rd anniversary of his passing on to eternity.

James MT I have met Br C M only thrice. He tried to bring Monfortan Spirituality into the mainstream of contemporary life. It is because of this reason that he is a prophetic figure. It is for this reason that his influence will long be felt.

And thank you dear T K Jose for having such an impact on my life and making it rich with love and friendship.

Jacob KV: He dared to be different, refused to walk on the beaten track and preferred the road less traveled Bro. C.M. Joseph we remember you with love.



Till We Meet Again....

Late MGA KM Punnoose

Ex Brother Punnoose from Karimkunnamm passed away this morning. He belonged to my junior batch from Kazipet Juniorate – informs Br Bro Chacko Thattayat from Tanzania. MGA Late KM Punnoose was in Eachinkadu Novitiate from April 1962 to 1964 and worked in the Northern Province.



Late KM Punnoose ...

MGA Cyriac Lukose and Others Raises Funds for Fiji Sisters

MGA Dominic writes..... AMMA - Atland Metro Malayalee Association celebrated the Our Motherland India's Republic Day on 30 January, 2021 thru a Zoom Meet

My dear friends

I am very happy to bring to your attention that the first project of fundraising money to buy a car for the Indian sisters working in Fiji mission is completed. With your co-operation and generosity we were able to raise US Dollar 7000/- which we transferred to the sisters account today. I want to thank all of you for your participation and may God bless you all.

We want to be transparent about the account and here is the breakdown of contributors in the alphabetical order

1. Abraham George USD 100
2. Agustine Thomas USD 100
3. Cyriac Velimattam USD 100
4. Cyriac Lukose USD 1850
5. Dominic Chackonal USD 500
6. George Nellamattam USD 1150
7. Joseph Pathiyil USD 500
8. Lukachan Neduthuruthy USD 100
9. Lukose USD 500
10. Oliyanikal José USD 300
11. Philip Mathew USD 200
12. Simion Cherukara USD 500
13. Shaju George USD 100
14. Tomy V Joseph USD 100
15. Unknown USD 1000

Total USD 7100. Total send to Sisters USD 7000. International transfer fee USD 140

Once again, we want to thank you all from the bottom of our heart specially in these pandemic times. Sisters are extremely delighted and thanks you all.

Cyriac Lukose Member MGA

Other Events

Farewell to Br Jim Thekkan

Farewell to Br Jim Thekkan from Montfort Technical Institute, Savusavu on 27 02 21. We wish him all the best in Tonga his next mission assignment.

Gratitude and love from the Brothers, staff and the students of Montfort Savusavu.



Farewell Br Jim...Love From MTI Savusavu ...

Events in Hyderabad



Events ...



Events ...



Events ...

Writes MGA MM Joseph- Dr Papachan Mundiyanal aka MGA MM Joseph from Trivandrum informs :

Our son Mascrene is getting better and is discharged from the hospital and is attending to physiotherapy at our Home for body betterment for a month I personally thank all those who have helped us in different ways especially with prayers.

It may be mentioned that Mascrene, the youngest son of MGA MM Joseph (Dr Papachan Mundiyanal) fought all odds in KIMS Hospital Trivandrum for over two months while the family had undergone immense pressure mentally physically and financially as the treatment ran over Rs 32 Lakhs.

Young Mascrene fell ill while he was handing over charge prior to his joining his new assignment; he is yet to join the new job.

Congrats Launching of a new program... Fr. Abraham Aareparambil... of Malnad Social Service Society.



From Malnad Karnataka ...

From Mynamar -



Sr Ann Nu Thawng From Mynamar . . .

Sister Ann Nu Thawng, a member of the Sisters of St. Francis Xavier, stood in front of the Burmese police on February 28, the bloodiest day since the military coup.

Eyewitnesses said she got on her knees, raised her hands toward heaven and implored: "Don't shoot, don't kill the innocent. If you want, hit me."

The policemen did not shoot and stopped their advance. Over 100 protesters escaped from the police brutality because of her courage.

Peaceful resistance against an oppressive regime, inspired by her Faith made a difference.

Thank you, Sr. Ann, for your example of faith and courage to stand by your people.

Similar stories of faith and courage from people of different religions are coming in. It is such acts of courage that makes humanity and religion relevant - Love God thru Neighbour in daily action.

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International Women's Day 2021 . . .

Summary International Women's Day is dedicated to acknowledge women's achievements and push for equality all across the world. But how do different countries mark the day? Every year March 8 marks International Women's Day across the world. The day is dedicated to honour the achievements of women across different fields and to push for gender equality. The event, which has its roots in the early 1900s socialist feminist movements, is now recognised and celebrated across different parts of the world. The global day celebrates the social, economical, cultural and political achievements of women. Celebrated annually on March 08, the theme for this year was ChooseToChallenge, which emphasises how we can all choose to challenge inequality and gender bias. Over the years, women have managed to break many stereotypes

and make a place for themselves in the male-dominated society. However, we still have a long way to go to bridge the gap between the two genders. Women's day not only helps us recognise how far we have come but also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity. While the day itself carries the theme of equality and female empowerment, the way it's acknowledged and celebrated across the world differs from country to country. Scroll down to check out how different nations marked the day this year.

Italy Women wore signs with writing reading in Italian "Welfare is not the same for all" "Its not a woman's job" , "Men advance; childbirth is not their problem," and "I don't have children but to be discriminated its enough to be a woman," during a demonstration in front of the Finance Ministry on International Women's Day in Rome

Nepal- Nepalese women boxers participated in a boxing match organized to mark International Women's Day in Kathmandu, Nepal.

India-An exile Tibetan was seen writing her message which challenges gender stereotypes on a piece of paper during a gathering to mark Women's Day in Dharmasala.

Supporters of the Trinamool Congress party, walked in a rally to mark the day in Kolkata on March 08. They also raised their voice against the fuel price hike in the country.

Women's day was celebrated with all colorful hues and zest in Hyderabad as well.



MCDS Srinivasapuram 'Study Centre Students' rocking dance performance

Events . . .



Spectators in the auditorium

Events . . .



Group Dance by Karunai Malar SHG



Events . . .

And from the Archives - The Woman Power:

No photo can beat this on
Women's Day 😊



Events . . .

Philippines- Women activists displayed a sign in solidarity of protests in Myanmar near the Malacanang presidential palace to mark International Women's Day in Manila, Philippines.

Romania- Women were seen taking part in a rally during International Women's Day outside the government headquarters in Bucharest, Romania, to raise awareness against violence and prejudice in Romanian society

Pakistan- Activists from the Women Democratic Front danced during a rally to mark International Women's Day, in Karachi, Pakistan. The writing behind them read "women's sit-in."

Algeria- Women marched in Algiers on March 08. It was among events around the world calling for greater women's rights to mark International Women's Day.-mar28

France- Women carried signs release coloured smoke

during a march on International Women's Day in Paris.
Poland- People of Warsaw, Poland, took part in a protest on March 8, 2021. This year's Women's Day, which was being marked with protests, came after a near-total ban on abortion took effect in January.

Turkey- Protesters chanted slogans during a rally to mark International Women's Day in Istanbul, Turkey. Thousands of people joined the march to denounce violence against women.

Spain- Women attended an International Women's Day gathering at an avenue in Barcelona. Women in Spain marked this year's day with static protests, bicycle fun-rides and small-sized events to prevent gatherings that could trigger a spike in Coronavirus infections.

Argentina- Seen here, a woman shouting during a demonstration to mark International Women's Day in Buenos Aires, Argentina

Mexico- Women were seen waving feminist flags as demonstrators attempted to storm the National Palace during a march to commemorate International Women's Day and protesting against gender violence in Mexico City.

The United States- Protestors are seen protesting against femicide and gender violence at the intersection of Hollywood Blvd. and Highland Ave. in Los Angeles on March 8, 2021.

The New OCI notification- Ends Dual Citizenship . . .

With new OCI notification, India has ended its experiment with dual citizenship. The notification introduces a series of restrictions that dramatically curtails the rights and liberties of OCIs in India.

According to T Prashant Reddy, lawyer and author of the article, in a stunning development for Overseas Citizens of India, the Ministry of Home Affairs issued a notification on March 4 dramatically altering the compact between OCIs and the Indian state. This notification, which is issued under Section 7B of the Citizenship Act, 1955, supersedes three earlier notifications issued on April 11, 2005, January 5, 2007, and January 5, 2009, which laid down the rights of the OCIs.

Apart from humiliating and illegally classifying OCIs as "foreign nationals", the new notification introduces a series of new restrictions that dramatically curtails the rights and liberties of OCIs in India. These restrictions include a requirement for OCIs to secure a special permit to undertake "any research", to undertake any "missionary" or "Tablighi" or "journalistic activities" or to visit any area in India notified as "protected", "restricted" or "prohibited".

In addition, the notification now equates OCIs to "foreign nationals" in respect of "all other economic, financial and educational fields" for the purposes of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 2003 although past circulars by the Reserve Bank of India under FEMA will hold ground. This reverses the position that has held for the last 16 years wherein OCIs were equated to Non-Resident Indians

rather than “foreign nationals” for the purposes of their economic, financial and educational rights.

OCIs can however continue to purchase land (other than agricultural land), pursue the profession of medicine, law, architecture and accountancy and seek parity with Indian citizens with regard to airfares and entry fee to monuments and parks. OCIs can also continue to seek enrolment in Indian educational institutions on par with NRIs but not for seats reserved exclusively for Indian citizens.

Judicial defeats

Most of these new restrictions have likely been inspired by the defeats suffered by the government in various cases filed by OCIs before the judiciary. Take for example, the new requirement for OCIs to apply for a special permit to undertake any missionary activities. This restriction has been introduced to undercut a judgment by Justice Vibhu Bakru of the Delhi High Court wherein he came down heavily on the Ministry of Home Affairs for cancelling the OCI card of an American-Indian doctor on the grounds that he was engaged in “evangelical and subversive activities” while offering free medical services to the needy and the poor in Bihar. In that judgment, Justice Bakru made it clear that there was no restriction preventing OCIs from engaging in religious activities.

Similarly, the restrictions on OCIs competing for seats reserved for Indian citizens is meant to undercut a judgment of the Karnataka High Court by Justices BV Nagarathna and NS Sanjay Gowda declaring that OCI students will be treated as Indian citizens for the purposes of admission to professional courses.

Lastly, the Ministry of Home Affairs’ assertion that OCIs are foreign nationals and not Indian citizens is most likely inspired by ongoing litigation before the Delhi High Court wherein an OCI has sought a declaration from the court that OCIs enjoy fundamental rights just like Indian citizens.

The requirement for OCIs to take a special permit to engage in journalistic activities has likely been motivated by right-wing ideologues like Subramaniam Swamy who has been targeting journalists like The Wire’s Siddharth Vardarajan because of their foreign citizenship. There are several other next generation OCIs who work as journalists in India and whose future will now be under a cloud if the Ministry of Home Affairs decides to deny them the required permit to continue working as journalists in India.

Long-term visa programme

This notification by the Ministry of Home Affairs is not surprising. For some time now, the Ministry of Home Affairs has dedicated its efforts to reduce the concept of OCIs to a glorified long-term visa programme rather than implement it as a dual citizenship programme, as was the intent of Parliament when then Home Minister LK Advani piloted the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2003, through Parliament. The “Statement of Objects Reasons” accompanying this Bill, which lays down the intent of the government at the time of introducing a bill in Parliament

and which can legitimately be used by the judiciary to discern the legislative intent, stated the following:

“Subsequently, the High Level Committee on Indian Diaspora constituted by the Central Government, inter alia, recommended the amendment of this Act to provide for the grant of dual citizenship to persons of Indian origin belonging to certain specified countries. The Central Government has accordingly decided to make provisions for the grant of dual citizenship.”

Advani in his introductory speech had clarified once again that the entire purpose of the Bill was to introduce dual citizenship for the Indian diaspora. It is therefore disingenuous for the Ministry of Home Affairs to now claim through a recent notification the claim that OCIs are foreign nationals. This argument is all the more absurd when viewed in light of the fact that the phrase OCI literally has the phrase “Indian citizen” in its title.

Lastly, it bears noting that the entire concept of OCIs was brought through the Citizenship Act, 1955, which is a legislation specifically meant to regulate the concept of Indian citizenship. There are separate laws like the Foreigners Act, 1946 and the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 2003, which deal exclusively with foreigners and their rights in India. The fact that Parliament sought to locate OCIs in the Citizenship Act and not the Foreigners Act or FEMA is sufficient proof that Parliament wanted OCIs to be Indian citizens.

Correct conceptualisation

Rather than declaring OCIs as foreign nationals, the Ministry of Home Affairs should recognise OCIs as a new class of Indian citizens who enjoy a different set of rights from Indian citizens holding Indian passports. The rights to which OCIs are not entitled are mentioned in the Citizenship Act. This list includes the right to hold public office or voting – the idea being that OCIs are excluded entirely from the political sphere of citizenship.

Unfortunately, Parliament delegated to the government of India via Section 7 B of the Citizenship Act, the power to decide the remaining rights of OCIs through notifications. While the legality of such delegation is suspect, there is also no doubt that no government can deprive any class of citizens of their fundamental rights.

To argue against such a basic proposition by declaring an entire class of citizens as foreign nationals, as has been done by the Ministry of Home in this present case, is quite simple wrong in law. Parliament can lay down the criteria for citizenship but once it decides to bestow citizenship on any category of persons, not even Parliament can proceed to deprive that class of citizens of their fundamental rights.

The very idea of fundamental rights in India is that every person is born with these rights and the Constitution merely recognises such rights.

If the Home Ministry fails to withdraw its most recent notification, it may just be the end of India’s short-lived experiment with dual-citizenship. It will be difficult if not impossible for the Government to reclaim the trust of OCIs

after this latest notification unless it acts swiftly.

(Source: Scrollin.March 21- Prashant Reddy T is a lawyer and co-author of *Create, Copy, Disrupt: India's Intellectual Property Dilemmas*.)

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Samuel Taylor Coleridge, 'Youth and Age'...



Sunset ...

Samuel Taylor Coleridge, 'Youth and Age'.

When I was young?—Ah, woful When!

Ah! for the change 'twixt Now and Then!

This breathing house not built with hands,

This body that does me grievous wrong,

O'er aery cliffs and glittering sands,

How lightly then it flashed along:—

Like those trim skiffs, unknown of yore,

On winding lakes and rivers wide,

That ask no aid of sail or oar,

That fear no spite of wind or tide!

Nought cared this body for wind or weather When Youth
and I lived in't together ...

(- Samuel Taylor Coleridge)



Sunrise ...

*Obliged immensely to Rev Br John Kallarackal Superior
General for these thematic pics*

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Hope To Survive . A picture of a daughter's and her 97 year old great grandmother's hands. With this photo, she wanted to show that old people are still needed for their experience, wisdom, and sharing.".... ...

Universal Declaration of Human Rights ...

Note: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly on 10 December 1948, was the result of the experience of the Second World War. With the end of that war, and the creation of the United Nations, the international community vowed never again to allow atrocities like those of that conflict happen again. World leaders decided to complement the UN Charter with a road map to guarantee the rights of every individual everywhere. The document they considered, and which would later become the Universal Declaration of

Human Rights, was taken up at the first session of the General Assembly in 1946.

It may be mentioned that this Universal Declaration of Human Rights is founded strongly and solidly on the principles of Natural Justice and applicable to all sections of the society irrespective of race, language, geography, religion and culture in the globe.

It may be surmised, that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the UN and the Constitution of a nation are two core documents that contain the very principles and charter for every person on earth for a dignified living. Inclusion of these two documents in the curriculum and teaching the children these principles of Human Rights and Responsibilities will go a long way in raising up the youth for a better tomorrow. Hence the inclusion of this document in the Newsnippet.

Whereas Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in co-operation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Whereas a common understanding of these rights and freedoms is of the greatest importance for the full realization of this pledge,

Now, Therefore, The General Assembly Proclaims this Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction.

Article 1

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Article 2

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

Article 3

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Article 4

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

Article 5 one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 6

Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

Article 7

All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

Article 8

Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

Article 9

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

Article 10

Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.

Article 11

1. Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence.
2. No one shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a

penal offence, under national or international law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the penal offence was committed.

Article 12

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

Article 13

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state.
2. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

Article 14

1. Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.
2. This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Article 15

1. Everyone has the right to a nationality.
2. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.

Article 16

1. Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.
2. Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.
3. The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

Article 17

1. Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others.
2. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

Article 18

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

Article 19

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

Article 20

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.
2. No one may be compelled to belong to an association.

Article 21

1. Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.
2. Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country.
3. The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

Article 22

Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.

Article 23

1. Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.
2. Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.

3. Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.
4. Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

Article 24

Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.

Article 25

1. Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.
2. Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.

Article 26

1. Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.
2. Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.
3. Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

Article 27

1. Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.
2. Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.

Article 28

Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.

Article 29

1. Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.
2. In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society.
3. These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Article 30

Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein.

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Human Rights to Water ...

ATTACHED TO MGA SNIPPET IS THE UN DOCUMENT ON HUMAN RIGHT TO WATER

The Document explains the Genesis of the Debate on the Right to Water, Evolution of the International Legal Regime for Human Rights and General Comments Issued by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

This document has an Introduction and Four Parts

PART ONE Genesis of the Debate on the Right to Water

PART TWO Evolution of the International Legal Regime for Human Rights

PART THREE General Comments Issued by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

PART FOUR Legal and Policy Dimensions of General Comment

The Attached Document contains among other things

Appendix I Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Appendix II International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Appendix III International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Appendix IV Economic and Social Council Resolution 1985/17 on the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Appendix V General Comment No. 15—The Right to Water

It is hoped that this document would serve in many ways for social action and educational endeavour in our daily lives.

—————End—————