



CAMPUS VIBES

HEART BEATS OF THE CAMPUS MINISTRY IN INDIA



This New Year
**I FOLLOW
I LIVE
I SHARE**

Every Christmas invites each and every one of us to a new challenge. Christmas season is considered as a celebrative season – celebration of remembering a God who came down from heaven to be with people (John 1:14). Indeed it is a season of celebration but unfortunately sometimes the celebration remains at the peripheral level. People express a sign of relief at the hope that they have in the Son of God when they see baby Jesus in the mangers of the churches. Often they forget that the hope in the Son of God made flesh leaves with us a challenge to ‘follow’ him from Manger to Calvary; to ‘live’ like him with a view of heaven and to ‘share’ the good news that ‘he is with us’. We need to continue our journey to follow Christ in this New Year. When the campus ministry chose the theme “I follow, I live, I share” as a pivotal theme in this Jubilee year we may not have been fully aware of the challenges that the theme brings with it. At the end of the conference many realized that it is time to enter into a serious introspection and

to see whether we ‘follow, live and share’ as was asked of us by Jesus when we began this ministry. We felt that the future of campus ministry rests in the hands, nay, in the hearts of those young men and women who decide, nay, who dedicate their life to follow him, live only for him and to share him with those who have no access to his love, care and salvation especially in campuses where future is moulded. I personally felt that such a dedication would be the real gift to baby Jesus. As the three wise men brought precious gifts for the King of kings, we too need to gift our Lord our faith, love and commitment. When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the human hands of Mary provided warmth and protection to the tiny and weak body of baby Jesus. It was the gift of Mary to Jesus who gifted himself to her and to us. We who have been beneficiaries of the gift have no other way than to re-dedicate ourselves to him. Our dedication would provide today warmth (new enthusiasm) and protection (best defence) to the mystical body of Christ, the Church, which is facing many old and fresh challenges. Christ and his Church have confidence in us and let us take this confidence as a complement for all our efforts down the years and let this, a complement to be an impetus to dedicate our life to follow, live and share him. May this New Year compel us to such dedication!



Fr. Vinoy Thomas O P
Animator, Campus Ministry
Bangalore



Believe in God's love for you as life unfolds

Excerpt from CNA/EWTN News, Vatican City, Dec 14, 2011, by David Kerr

Pope Benedict XVI says that people should trust in God's loving plan for their lives, even when events do not meet their expectations. "When we ask the Lord for something in prayer, we must not expect an immediate fulfillment of our requests, of our will," he said at his Dec. 14 general audience. "Rather, we should entrust ourselves to the will of the Father, reading events in the perspective of His glory, of His plan of love which is often a mystery to our eyes." The Pope continued his focus on the theme of prayer in his comments to the 7,000 pilgrims gathered in the Vatican's Paul VI audience hall. "In our prayer," he said, "request, praise and thanksgiving should fuse together, even when it seems to us that God does not respond to our expectations." He added that "abandoning ourselves to the love of God" is a "fundamental principle in our dialogue with Him," and leads to the "the greatest gift He can give us," which is "His friendship, His presence, His love." To illustrate his point, the Pope reflected on two scenes from the Scriptures – Jesus healing a deaf man in the Gospel of St. Mark and the raising of Lazarus as recounted in the Gospel of St. John. Pope Benedict highlighted the individual care and love Christ gave the deaf man, noting that Jesus took the man away from the crowd and created "a unique relationship" with him. He then cured the man with a particular "intensity of attention," using his own fingers and saliva on the specific location of the disability. Then, Jesus looked up to heaven, sighed and said "Ephphatha," meaning "Be Opened" in Aramaic. The "central point" of the episode is "the fact that Jesus, at the very moment He works the cure, directly seeks His relationship with the Father" by looking up to heaven. "The narrative shows, then, that human involvement with the sick man led Jesus into prayer," said the Pope. In that moment of prayer, Jesus' "unique relationship with the Father emerges once again, His identity as Only-begotten Son." Pope Benedict also saw the two-way relationship between Christ's union with his Father and his individual love for each person at work in the raising of Lazarus from the dead. In fact, Jesus was so "deeply moved at the sight of the suffering of Martha and Mary, and of all Lazarus' friends," that he himself wept. As with the deaf man, Christ again "prays directly to the Father," this time in front of the tomb. The Gospel of St. John recounts how "Jesus looked upward and said, Father I thank you for having heard me."

This episode "shows us that Jesus had not for a moment ceased His prayer for Lazarus' life," said Pope Benedict. "That prayer was continuous, indeed it strengthened Jesus' bond with His friend and, at the same time, confirmed His decision to remain in communion with the will of the Father." Despite the apparent disaster of his friend's death, it is in Christ's "plan of love" that the glory of God was displayed, the Pope observed. He concluded his discourse by teaching that while Christ's concern for humanity "causes him to turn to the Father," conversely, it is also this "communion with the Father" that leads him to be "attentive to the real-life situations of man." When Christians pray, the Pope said, they must share in this "profound bond between love for God and love for others." This will allow them to "open the door to God" and learn "how to abandon our own selves in order to come close to others, especially in moments of trial, bringing them consolation, hope and light," he said. Before leading pilgrims in praying the Our Father and imparting his Apostolic Blessing, Pope Benedict also bestowed a particular Advent blessing. "As we prepare to celebrate the Savior's birth at Christmas, I cordially invoke upon you and your families his abundant blessings of joy and peace!"



What is Inside

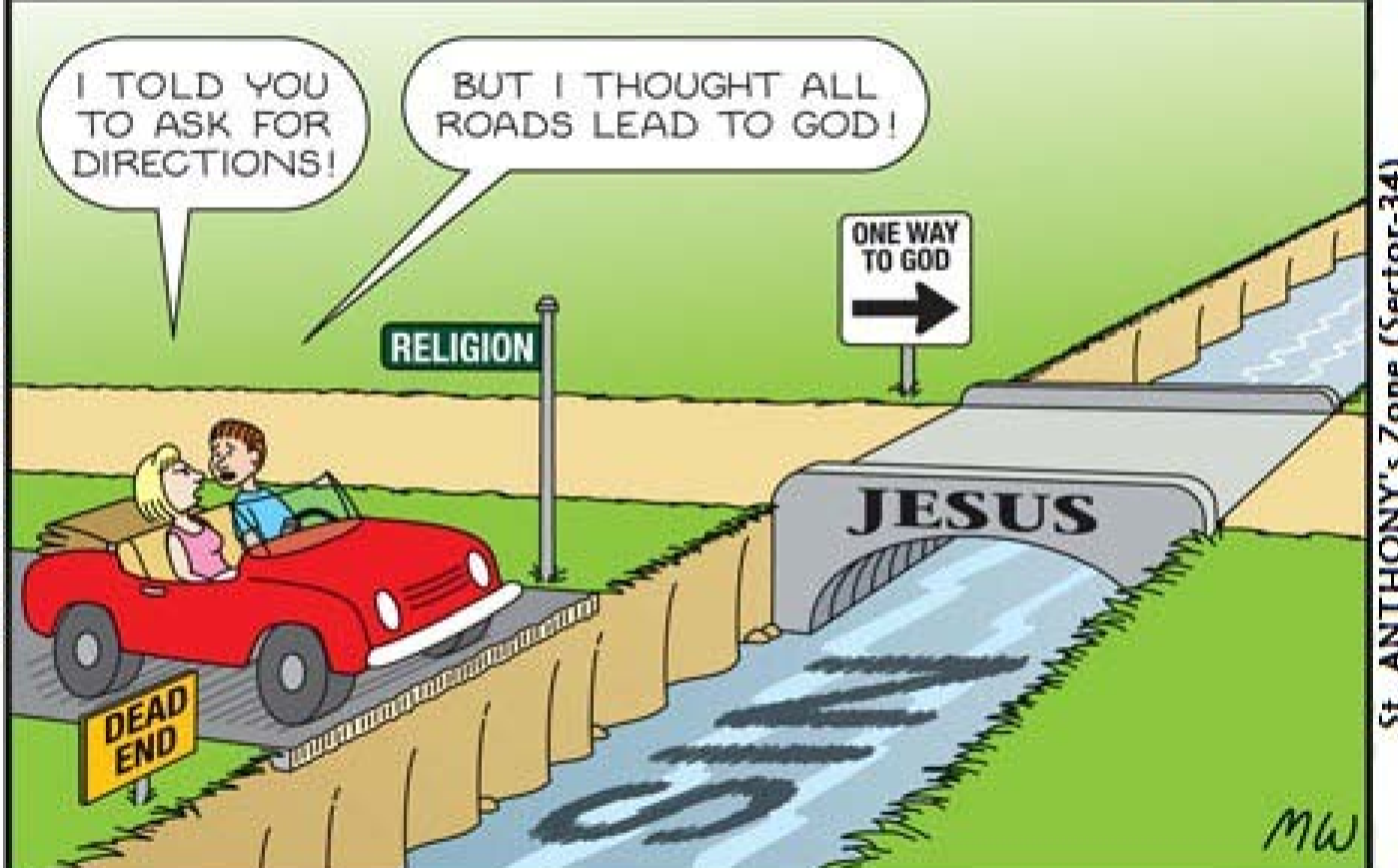
- Pope's Message
- National Campus Conference
- Regional News
- National Leader's Training

Upcoming Events

- Tamil Nadu Campus Meet 14th - 17th Jan 2012, Trichi
- Teacher's Gathering 4th Feb 2012, Ranchi
- Campus Program, St. Aloysius College, 28th Jan 2012, Jabalpur
- Core Team Training 10th -12th Feb, 2012, Cochin
- Final Year Engineering Students Gathering of Kerala, 24th - 26th feb, 2012, Cochin
- SALVARE 12, Conference for professional students of northern Kerala, 18th - 20th Feb 2012, Calicut
- BELIEVE 12, Conference for professional students of Southern Kerala, 13th - 15th Jan 2012, Trivandrum

ONE WAY

A Joyful 'toon by Alan George



Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." — JOHN 14:6

National Campus Conference

The Campus Ministry celebrated its 25th Jubilee in style when the Apostolic Nuncio, Salvatore Pinnachio inaugurated the National Campus Conference and gave his blessings on behalf of our Pope Benedict the XVI. The conference held from the 25th to the 28th of October in Bangalore was a special treat to 358 leaders who came from different regions of India and rejuvenated their experience of Christ and understanding their greater call to mission in campuses. Vibrant leaders like C C Joseph, Jose Sebastian, George Devassy, Vijay Sebastian, Dr. Chackochan Njavallil and Dony Peter shared their thoughts on the theme "I Follow, I Live, I Share". The conference was also blessed with the presence of shepherds from various dioceses and archdiocese of India who celebrated the Holy Eucharist and gave their message of Christ centered youthfulness and encouraged the young people to be vibrant and full of joy for the Lord. Our very dear Archbishop His Grace Abraham Viruthakulanga also released the "Know How" book of the Campus Ministry. Workshops, pep talks, streams, discussions, panel sharing and Heart Talks has helped each individual to share their bit of their journey with Christ and also encourage others campus leaders from across India to set their hearts on mission of the Campus ministry for the coming years.



NEWS + VIEWS

Tweet Sweet Jesus - Ahemadabad

Twenty three campus students gathered in Ahemadabad on 10th December 2011 for a one day program named "Tweet Sweet Jesus" with the theme 'live for Christ in campus'. Testimonies of active campus leaders, videos like the Eucharistic miracles at Naju, presentation about the campus ministry and music made the program vibrant. The day ended with giving commitments to the participants like not cheating the exam, daily rosary and personal prayer etc. For the organizers it was a also an experience of the mercy of God as God made all things well amidst technological difficulties.



Christ the King Feast Celebration, Hyderabad

On the feast day of Christ the King, CJITS witnessed a gathering of many JY leaders and upcoming members gathered together to celebrate the feast. With prayer, sharing and celebration where even ex-students of CJITS were present, our director Fr.Papi Reddy boldly proclaimed that he himself is a Jesus Youth.



National Leaders Training Program

National Leader's Training 2011 were the days of amazing grace and learning. Sole purpose "BE A DISCIPLE AND MAKE DISCIPLES" brought the 27 leaders from across the regions of India to Goa. The ten days of training enabled to have a deeper understanding of oneself and the purpose of our call. The retreat was preached by Bro Edmond and some of the sessions taken were; the route map of Christianity, hindrances in our walk to God, study of Jesus' approach towards building relationships, different stages of faith, character studies from the Bible, workshop on call of Abraham, his response, his obedience, God's response and relating it to our call, our response and our obedience, 7 sins, public speaking, skill development, open forum for questions on the movement, problems encountered in the regions, new changes in the movement, charisms of the movement- necessity to have personal pastor and elder, theology of the body, laws of leadership, region wise discussion on the concerns and plans for respective region.

A deeper reflection of the Lord's call helped me to encounter the Lord once again, set my path right i.e. to be focused, it enabled me to have short term personal mission, plans of the given term - campus ministry and my region. What hit me hard was the word "accompaniment" which is very essential for immediate goals and near future plans. I had great time learning as well from my friends, knowing them personally and about their regions.

The occasion was graced and blessed by the presence of Rev. Philip Neri, the Archbishop of Goa on the final day. Empowered by the Holy Spirit the leaders resolved to empty themselves just like Jesus and equipped with Gospel values they set forth to their mission place in greater joy and zeal.

Neha Jasmine Tigga
National Campus Team

CAMPUS VIBES 16
Presenting the 16th issue of Campus Vibes, the e-newsletter of the Jesus Youth National Campus Ministry. Please do send your valuable suggestions to campusindia@jesusyouth.org

LET US PRAY

MOST LOVING GOD, we humbly place our Campus Ministry into Your hands. We pray for our colleges, universities and all other centers of learning so that you will raise Your apostles in these places. Let Your message of love bear abundant fruits among the students, teachers and all the administrative staff in these institutions. Let there be an outpouring of Your Holy Spirit upon them, so that many of them will accept Jesus as their Lord and Master and will come together to glorify Him. We make this prayer with the intercession of our blessed mother. Amen

