

I am Sunil Jayathissa, born to religious Buddhist parents and hail from Galagodagedara, Moragoda, Kandy, (Sri Lanka). Being the only male child in a family of eight, with seven sisters older than me, I grew up amidst the love and affection of everyone in the family. Since childhood, I led a very religious life according to the Buddhist vision.

My father was a very clever Ayurvedic Physician, in addition to being an Astronomer, and dealt with mantra, charms and occult rituals. One evil spirit entered my body when I was around seven years of age, and a further two evil spirits invaded me at the age of about 15-17 years. Under the influence of these evil spirits I was able to consume fire, fire-walk, dip hands in boiling oil, Climb on heated sheets of iron, crunch glass, jump down from tree heights, creep through small apertures and engage in such incredibly dangerous stunts. According to my recollections, I have broken the necks of over one thousand chickens and drunk their blood. I was required to do so, whenever I engaged in occult rituals.

In the meantime, one of my sisters fell ill and was diagnosed as having a hole in the heart, and despite treatment from my father and mother who used their extensive skills. In addition to religious observances to invoke the blessings of the deities, and resorting to Devil Dancing to exorcise evil spirits, she failed to show any signs of recovery. It was agonising for the rest of the family to see her condition deteriorating day by day.

At this point in time, through one of my teachers I came to know of the existence of a living God. I failed to believe this however, and even ridiculed her conviction, although she professed that this God was able to cure any illness, exorcise evil spirits, break charms, cure drunkards and drug addicts, as well as, assist people in overcoming all types of problems and difficulties. Although I thought more and more about what she had told me, I still considered that there was no truth in it.

Several months lapsed in this vein. Again, my sister became seriously ill. The Doctors advised that the hole in her heart had developed to the size of a small button and according to them she had only a span of about two months to live. I need not say the extent of depression our family underwent, upon hearing this verdict. My sole intention was to do whatever is possible to save my sisters life. As there did not seem to be anything we could do, or any other means visible to us, as a last resort I decided to heed the advice of my teacher. I managed to get my parents consent for this purpose too.

Even as we neared the church, I was prevented from entering it, as my whole body became lifeless and I fell in a faint. My sister however, was able to enter the church. She explained to me the experience she had. When the entire congregation had joined in prayer on her behalf, she had started vomiting blood and phlegm. She was thereafter, given Holy water to drink, and was informed by them that the Lord had placed his hands on her. While the congregation prayed for her recovery, she had felt something similar to an electric shaft exiting from her body. Three days after this incident occurred, we had her undergo an x-ray, and on examination the doctors informed that no longer was a hole visible in her heart, and were quite astonished at her recovery. Praise the name of the Lord, for her complete cure.

Although she had been given only two months of life, she is still alive and well after sixteen years. God can do whatever man cannot do.

After a lapse of time, I too was smitten with the desire to go in search of this God. But my religious beliefs and professional responsibilities as an Artist, delayed me.

One day I visited the church where my sister was healed. As I entered the church, I experienced great discomfort in mind and body, which I find extremely difficult to describe in words. I began struggling and screaming at the top of my voice. I was in such distress that I put my fingers in my mouth and bit them. I started vomiting and excreting blood. My tongue stretched out and I started to "boo" at the top of my voice. This behavior had apparently lasted about two hours, while the entire congregation had been in prayer in the name of Jesus Christ the living Lord, seeking to exorcise the evil spirits that had possessed me. Each time I heard the name "Jesus" men-



tioned, I felt as if my ears were being pierced with iron rods. In a matter of moments, I saw three approximately fifty-foot tall dark shadowy men similar to humans exist from my body and run away with the speed of lightning. I then tumbled onto the ground as all the devils that had invaded my body were expelled in the name of our Lord Jesus. The Lord Jesus placed his hands upon me. The people in the church, who witnessed this, bathed me and provided me with food and drink. They inquired whether I believed in Jesus. I scolded them saying "you must be mad to claim that God is alive" and ran away. I refused to believe everything that they had said. I did not even momentarily consider it necessary to stray away from the religious teachings that I had been inculcated in or the God I believed in from my tender years.

After this incident, I returned to my lodgings. My body experienced a sense of freedom and my mind was filled with an exhilaration I had never known before. I could not understand the reason for this. I felt as if I had been released from shackles that had bound me up to now, and I experienced a new sense of independence. It seemed that I was relieved of a burden I had been shouldering for a long time, and my burdens had vanished. It is only that day I realised the sense of happiness and light heartedness with which young girls and boys of my age normally lived.

As time rolled by in this manner, I felt an urge to re-visit that church, in order to try and regain the three power bases that I had lost, as I desired to return to my village and perform religious activities and invoke blessings, as I had been doing in the past. As such, I revisited that church for the 3rd time. At the time of my visit people were at prayer, having received and been empowered by the Holy Spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ, and were talking in strange languages. I secretly observed the religious precepts I was familiar with. Fear invaded me even as I asked myself whether I was in the right place. Meanwhile one person who was there stood up and cried "Jesus is Alive!" I shouted aloud saying, "it is a lie, if Jesus is alive I should be able to touch and see him, and he should talk to me". One of the brethren spoke to me saying "Yes, the Lord will declare himself to you in the manner you wish". It was about 10 O'clock on that Saturday morning. Everyone present circled me and they started praying for me. I was asked to keep my eyes closed while they prayed. I kept my eyes wide open, as I believed that they would try to mesmerise me, if I kept my eyes closed. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit. I watched unwaveringly, while they continued to speak in different tongues. I had read many books on how to explore people's minds and had a good understanding of such methods. I was under the impression that by developing their minds these people had cultivated the art of winning over people. However I was soon proved wrong and compelled to admit that there was indeed a living God by being witness to the most astonishing and incredible occurrence that took place before my very eyes.

A huge gust of wind bore down, tearing and sweeping away the galvanised iron sheets off the roof of the hall in which I stood. A door 10,000 ft wide, opened in the skies far above, through which a light shone down on the hall where I stood, and it enveloped me from the head to the soles of my feet. I felt that I had been endowed with the strength of fifty people like myself. Through my closed eyes I glimpsed the right hand of Jesus Christ. His hand was pink and like a child's powder puff, with many lines on the palm. The nails were beautiful with half-moons on every nail, while the fingers were tapered and long with the Wealth line ending right at the top. Although I did not know the Lord, using my full name He addressed me saying, "My son, Galagodahena Mudiyanseleage Sunil Jayathissa, do not fear for your future. Place yourself in my hands. I am the Almighty God, maker of heaven and earth". There were sev-

eral scars on his hand. One was newly healed, while the rest were not healed. Folding two fingers and pointing one finger at me he touched my tongue. In that instant I shouted out loud saying, "My Lord I believe in you". From that moment onward I truly believe that there is a living God in this world. I began speaking in strange languages, and everyone present at the church started crying and praying in a very jolly mood. A foreign couple was present at the service, and the lady was busily writing on a white paper.

It was an incredible experience. I was unable to control myself. I saw two people with rosy pink faces descend to where I was. I saw only one side of their faces, and their eyes were blue. Although they did not seem to have a body, from neck downward for about 50 meters, threads of many hues were swaying in the wind. I heard beautiful tunes from a variety of heavenly musical instruments, and though I am familiar with the notes of Indian and Sri Lankan musical instruments, I had never in my life heard such wonderful tunes before. It is too beautiful to describe. They came to me and carried me on their back and ascended to heaven. I started bleeding from my ears (subsequently there were bloodstains on my shirt). As I was being carried up, I began to feel very cold, and when I told them so, they stated that their warmth would suffice for me and took me through a flame-covered door and let go of me. Although there was no light from sun, moon or stars, I saw colourful shades of pink, light green, orange, yellow and mauve. Although there were many thrones only four were clearly visible to me. Near every throne there was a curtain woven in a dull gold material, and names were written on them in many languages. The curtain near one throne had the number 6 with my full name on it. I saw a red arrow travelling from my name towards the throne. I was exhilarated with happiness and ran up the stairway leading to the throne to sit on it, but with 7 steps left to climb, a voice asked me to climb down saying there was plenty of time for me to sit upon that throne. The Angels who had escorted me brought a small stool covered in a beautiful red velvet cloth and invited me to sit on it. Once I was seated a very bright light shone on my face and I was momentarily blinded by this light. Gradually I began to see the outlines of the thrones. As I started to see clearly the Lord spoke to me saying "Go forth and preach to people who have never heard about me irrespective of whether they accept me or not; heal the sick; release those who have been possessed of evil spirits; that which is given to you free of charge, give back free of charge". Then a gust of wind came and blew me back through the door which was aflame, and I came swirling down, and as I descended I saw buildings and houses in minuscule. When I regained conscience I was at Sri Jayawardanapura Hospital. I felt a nurse applying pressure on me. For an instance it seemed that my soul had moved away from my body. I could feel something inserted in my mouth. Then I noticed needles inserted into my arm and realised that saline was being administered to me; and proceeded to remove them. I cried out aloud. The Doctors took me to another room and questioned me in detail. I informed that I had been with the Lord, and asked why I had been brought back. I then saw that the people who had been at the church were still with me. The Doctors informed them that I had been under the influence of a religious force, and that there was nothing else wrong with me and advised them to take me away. They took me back to the church in a vehicle. They questioned me about my experience, and I explained in detail about my experiences. The French couple who were in the church informed me that I had been filled with the Holy Spirit and had recited Psalms 119, 23, 127, so quickly in the French language, that she had been able to take down in writing only half of what I had been saying at the time. I was astonished to hear that, I who had been totally ignorant about the word of God up to that day, and had not known any other language other than Sinhalese, had been speaking the Gospel in French, having been filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. When they questioned me again as to whether I truly believed in God the father, I cried

out that I truly accept and believe in no other God but Him.

From that day forward I gave up everything and followed in the footsteps of our Lord Jesus and received my water baptism, and continued to serve the Lord for about a year. I returned to Colombo and continued in the service of the church. One day I was riding on a bike when I saw a church with a name board called "Lanka Pentecost" and visited the church. As the congregation was at prayer when I entered, I too joined in prayer and was filled with the Holy Spirit, and again saw the vision with the large foundation with the lights above and around it. I again pleaded with the Lord to reveal its meaning, and again received the response that it would be revealed to me in due course. As I prepared to leave after the service, I was informed that another prayer session is due to be held which included bible lessons, and was invited to remain. I did so. The servant of God, who instructed us at this session, displayed a large poster depicting the exact vision I had seen. And as he began to explain the meaning of it, I was in tears. When he inquires as to why I was crying, I explained to them about my vision. He was astounded, but explained in detail that the foundation represents Jesus Christ and the twelve (12) lamps above stands for the apostles while the seven (07) lamps surrounding the foundation represent services and other blessings bestowed by the Holy Spirit, and declared this to be the eternal truth. Thereafter, I determined that since this is the truth that is where I should be. I also decided to offer my services for the cause of the truth. I realised that the Lord has indeed guided and led me to the correct place. I became a member of this church/ (Lanka Pentecost Church). We had to forsake everything as required to become committed servants of the Lord. I sacrificed all worldly goods, including the distinctive certificates that I had been awarded for my dancing, as well as all my personal desires. Thereafter I again received a water baptism of salvation from a committed servant of God. One day I had a vision. A person robed in white with golden hands, spoke in a strange tongue; and placing his hands on my head anointed me and invited me to the Ministry of the true living God. In 1992 I forsaking all worldly pleasures including marriage, I dedicated myself to the Ministry of the Lord.

In addition to conducting the Service in Ja-ela, we now conduct services in Negombo, Wennappuwa, Kuliyapitiya, Kurunegala, Hatton, Kandy, Ratnapura, Kalutara, Moratuwa, Anuradhapura, Chilaw, and Thisogama. In addition to Colombo, we have 4 homes in branches dedicated to the service of believers. Including me there are three males and three females in the service. At present there are about 700 believers who have received the Water Baptism; while the believers total about 3,000. We also occasionally conduct services in Australia, Dubai, India, New Zealand and Singapore.

The aim of our service, as stated in Colossians 1:28 is, to heal the sick, release those who have been possessed of evil spirits, cure drunkards and drug addicts, and assist people in overcoming all types of problems and difficulties, free of charge in the name of Jesus Christ, and convince them of His wondrous message of Hope and Eternal Life after death.

Praise Thee oh Lord! For all that you have done to uplift my life through service of Thy Eternal Church.

For anyone who wishes the prayer for their personal problems, incurable illnesses, and personal peace of mind contact Brother Jayatissa on Mobile 0422 015 343 or Anil Jayasuriya 0437 888 111

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