

# One Blooming

## LOTUS IN THE MIDST OF POISON



Written by Jasmine Ghala

Also the author of 'Overcoming the hurdles of life'

British Columbia, Canada

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"They will be able to handle snakes with safety, and if they drink anything poisonous, it won't hurt them. They will be able to place their hands on the sick, and they will be healed."

**Mark 16:18**

A decorative illustration of autumn leaves in orange and teal colors, located in the bottom right corner of the cover.

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"The puppets and the puppeteers wanted to put me in the jail. Satan wanted me to shoot all the puppets and puppeteer. But God had a plan for me to write this book."

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## DEDICATION

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### ONE BLOOMING LOTUS IN THE MIDST OF POISON

This book is dedicated to the loving memory of my late parents, Kundanlal & Taramati. They taught us their valuable Jain morals to us from our childhood. I cannot help but admire them for the loving way in which they modeled for us how to cope with difficult situations to live a victorious life. Their kind instructions have deeply influenced me and will remain with me all my life.

I thank my late husband, Shanti for bringing me to the knowledge of the Lord Jesus and his companionship which inspired me to worship the Lord every morning. His zeal to worship God has deeply impacted me and I continue to cherish it in my life.

I thank my husband's late parents, Hemkuver and Lalji, for their warm welcome, their appreciative nature, their teachings and valuable gifts, in spite of our differences in faith. I greatly appreciate that although they were of Jain culture and beliefs, they were always ready to listen to our testimonies of Christian faith and belief, and they were willing to be prayed for. I greatly admire the fact that they were both respectful towards our faith in Christ.

Jasmine Ghala

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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### ONE BLOOMING LOTUS IN THE MIDST OF POISON

I thank the Lord Jesus because he is the reason for my book. He kept me vibrant with joy in the midst of people who were like poisonous snakes. He gave me joy and vitality and spiritual strength so that poison had no power over me. So, I was able to bloom like a lotus in that poisoned office.

I thank my late parents for their loving instructions to help us live a victorious life. My father taught me that although we may live in a polluted environment, we can live a clean and beautiful life just like a lotus which grows in dirty waters of a pond. Yet, it absorbs only the good nutrients, avoiding all the pollution around it and becomes a beautiful flower. In the same manner, living in a polluted environment, we can ignore the toxins and become as beautiful as a lotus. I also thank my mother for giving us time to study and also teaching us household responsibilities, a perfect balance between the two aspects, and encouraging us to maintain our social connections. I am grateful for my birth country of India. We were taught good morals through home life, education system, Jain society, Indian literature and media, including movies.

I am thankful to the government of Canada for giving us the privileges of Canadian citizenship. I also thank the government of BC for educational grants for further training to help me stand on my feet. I am thankful to my instructors in Pacific Vocational Institute for their dedicated and caring teaching support. I am thankful to my employers for their training and references. My special thanks to Barbara Jones, the manager of LATB, then, for her caring support and leadership.

I am thankful for TV evangelists and our home church for their encouraging preaching, their faithful and dedicated prayers and many other resources for spiritual advancement to fight bravely against the schemes of the devil. (Ephesians 6:11)

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## INTRODUCTION

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### ONE BLOOMING LOTUS IN THE MIDST OF POISON

This is my true experience working for an employer called LATB. Although the topic of this book may sound serious, I plan to bring a bit of humour in this book.

A few friends had their own pet monkeys. They were in competition with each other about their pet monkeys. (1) The engineer friend asked his monkey to draw some extra-ordinary geometrical designs. The monkey drew wonderful patterns and was praised. (2) The Chemist friend asked his monkey to measure a cup of milk for each person. The monkey accurately measured the milk and was praised. (3) The accountant friend asked his monkey to distribute three cookies to each person. The monkey was praised for his accuracy. (4) Finally, the fourth friend, working for a government office, said to his monkey: "Come on buddy! It's a coffee break!" So, the monkey ate the cookies, spread lots of crumbs, drank some milk, spilled and sprinkled some on people, made balls of paper and played! He enjoyed his coffee break!

I worked for LATB long enough and it was not all play nor was it a piece of cake for me, although we were given regular coffee breaks to enjoy and recuperate. My unique experience of working for them was like being caught in fishermen's nets and being trapped in the cobwebs of corruption and dirty tricks.

But the Lord came to my rescue to set me free from the traps of those sneaky hunters. He took me out of many troubled waters. He led me to the true pathway of justice and freedom.

***Psalm: 18:***

***16. The Lord reached down from heaven and took hold of me; he pulled me out of deep waters.***

***17. He rescued me from my powerful enemies.***

It is my prayer that one day there will be truth, honesty, sincerity, mutual respect, harmony, peace, fun and laughter among all people in businesses, corporations and in governments. Jesus said, "Peace be with you". May we all experience this true and lasting peace!

Jasmine Ghala

British Columbia, Canada

## DISCLAIMER

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### ONE BLOOMING LOTUS IN THE MIDST OF POISON

This book is one of the true stories of my life. I have tried to recreate events, locales and conversations from my memories of them. Full names of the people are not revealed for protection of their privacy. Names may have been changed. Sometimes, I use only the acronyms (official or unofficial) instead of the full names.

The Bible Scriptures are taken from the New International Version of the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, King James Version, Good News Bible and other popular translations. I do not have any degree in theology. The comparison between the stories of my life with the Bible Scriptures is according to my own understanding and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. This book is the result of numerous prayers that have been answered in my life. I want my readers to know how the Holy Spirit has given me peace, strength and courage to handle very difficult situations in my life.

There are suggested prayers in every chapter to help the readers establish a connection with our Lord Jesus. The purpose of this book is to enhance faith and motivate readers to pray and not give up in life. The writer is not engaged in rendering any psychological, spiritual or professional advice. The content in each chapter is based on truth in combination of my sole expression and opinion.

Although I believe there are no errors, I do not guarantee the accuracy of all events mentioned in this book. I reasonably believe that the information which I have taken from various sources is based on true findings. I do not have a degree in law and cannot guarantee accuracy of all legal terminology. I reasonably believe that bullying and harassment has turned a lot of people to violence, crimes and/or self-destruction because they were unable to cope with the evils of their society in which they lived. However, I was able to overcome all adversaries of bullying and harassment through peace of Christ and with the help of God. The sole purpose of my writing is to bring glory to God and bring people to the knowledge of God so they can be helped.

As new thoughts, ideas and memories of events kept flashing my mind, I have continuously edited this manuscript several times even after the manuscript had already been edited by Brother Peter Brooke.

Although I have made every effort to make sure that the information in this book was correct at the time of going to the website/prints/books/press, etc., I do not assume and hereby disclaim any liability to any party for any loss, damage or disruption caused by errors or omissions, whether such errors or omissions result from negligence, accident or any other cause.

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## CHAPTER 1

### NEW EMPLOYMENT

After working for my husband for a decade I needed some change in my life. Soon, I was hired by LATB for an auxiliary position. I continued to look for some work for a longer period of time. My trainer Mary gave me an excellent letter of reference. However, my auxiliary position was extended a few months at a time. The office environment was easy to work with. My colleagues took note of everybody's birthday. On my first birthday while working at this company my colleagues gave me a birthday gift. In spite of being in this nice friendly atmosphere, there were still a few things that I felt concern to speak about, but I remained quiet. As a new employee and especially one holding an auxiliary position, I overlooked many things. Also, it wasn't the right timings to announce matters of concerns as I needed to concentrate more on learning this new piece of legislation and digest it well to assist the general public with their inquiries. Later, this became my permanent position.

***Proverbs: 13:3***

***He who guards his lips guards his soul, but he who speaks rashly will come to ruin.***



The landlords and tenants of our province contacted our office to get information about their tenancy matters and arbitration process. There was no charge for our services. However, the people who came to us for inquiries, we considered them as clients. Overall, this work was totally new and interesting. The training I needed was provided and working with colleagues, superiors and the general public was enjoyable. The employer was expecting us to gradually advance in the complexity of work, which made our job easy to handle.

If you like, please join with me in a prayer.

***Prayer: Dear Lord Jesus, I pray for my readers that you will give them good jobs and give them wisdom to sustain them in their work, and prosper them. I also pray that they will have good relationship with their colleagues and employers.***

## CHAPTER 2

### POWER OF WORSHIP

#### Health Problem:

One day, my knee started hurting. It became worse and eventually I could not go to work. An X-ray of my knee was taken and I was informed that I may need a couple of surgeries. The first one would be a diagnostic surgery to investigate if there is a bad cartilage and then a second surgery to remove it.

I found out that someone in my family had a similar problem and was healed by an injection and no operation.

I talked to my surgeon, Dr. Fish and asked if he could do the same for me. But, he denied my request. The surgery was booked after a few weeks. I had no choice but to agree with the surgeon as I was not capable of running around for a second opinion. I was barely able to hop to the bathroom on crutches with lots of discomfort and pain.

During the waiting period right up until the surgery date, I worshiped the Lord day and night because that's all I could do. I was not able to walk around in the home to do any of the housework, nor was I capable of reading anything or praying because of excruciating pain in my knee. So, I just worshiped and worshiped. My church had given us a very spirit-filled worship tape and each and every song was uplifting. I am thankful to my home church. Worship increased my faith and gave me peace in spite of pain. Then, on the day of the surgery, I was admitted to the hospital. I continued to worship the Lord while waiting to see the surgeon.



There were a few other patients in my room and one of them asked me why I was there and I explained. This lady informed me that she was in the hospital for the same reason and that operation did not work for her. ☹️ She told me that during the diagnostic surgery, some 'crunchy bones' in her knee fell off and that she had been in the cast for six weeks. Now she was again in the hospital for a procedure in which the surgeon would take off some bone material from her ankle area and graft them onto her knee area. Then she would be in the cast for another six weeks. ☹️ Her story scared me

and I was horrified. My surgeon kept delaying and I worshiped the Lord more and more. Finally, in the evening, another surgeon, Dr. Pir came as Dr. Fish was too tired. I asked him if there was another way, other than a surgery, to get rid of the pain and swelling of my knee.

### **A Second Opinion - Healing Without Surgery:** ☺

He looked at my knee and my X- ray and he told me that I did not need this surgery. He gave me two injections – a pain killer and a steroid. Then, he asked me to straighten my leg and as a result, I could. ☺ Surprisingly, all the swelling was gone. He then asked me to get off the bed and I did. He then asked me to walk and I did so without any pain or discomfort. Then, he told me to go home. ☺ Then, I walked to the parking lot with my husband for the first time in several weeks. No crutches! No wheelchair! ☺ No more hospital stay! I was able to walk on my own two feet without pain or discomfort. Wow! I was healed!! ☺ There is a great power in worship! ☺ God showed me his mighty works! I was healed without surgery. ☺ My family members were amazed. The members of my church were also amazed, although they were praying for me they didn't realize how marvelous their prayers had been! Thank you church for your sweet prayers! Soon I went back to work and shared my testimony of healing with my colleagues.

### **Romans 12:1**

***Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – which is your spiritual worship.***

### **Hebrews 12: 28, 29**

***28. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe,***

***29. for our God is a consuming fire.***

*Thank you Jesus!  
We adore you. We love you.  
We praise your Holy Name  
You are worthy of our praise.  
We worship you!*

*Thank you Church, for your prayers and the lovely worship tape!*

***Prayer: Dear Lord Jesus, I pray for my readers that when they are sick, they will find favor with their physicians, surgeons and medical staff that they will give proper necessary treatment and they will not overdose on medication and they won't have to endure any unnecessary surgery. I pray that you will heal them quickly.***

## CHAPTER 3

### BROTHER'S SALVATION

One day at work, I was sitting at my desk in my office when the phone rang. The unthinkable news hit me in my chest like a hurricane: my loving brother Shirish had died! ☹ I don't know how I reacted to this phone call but all of a sudden, several people gathered around my desk, trying to figure out what had happened to me and why I behaved as if a bomb had exploded on me. They called Leena, our manager then. She told me to go home and rest but she wouldn't let me drive home. She sent two of my colleagues with me. One of them drove my car and the other followed us. They took me home.

I was confused and heart broken. I didn't know what to do. I didn't know how to pray. I was disappointed with God. I kept uttering: 'God loves me and he took away my brother from me! God loves my brother and he took him away from his family, his wife and children! God loves my mother and he took away her dear son!'

When my husband's mother had passed away, I had prayed to God to make her alive again. Well, I just wanted our family to see the glory of God. Also, my prayer was based on this passage of scripture in **Luke 7: 12 to 15**.

***12. A funeral procession was coming out as he approached the village gate. The young man who had died was the widow's only son and a large crowd from the village was with her.***

***13. When the Lord saw her, his heart overflowed with compassion. "Don't cry" he said.***

***14. Then, he walked over the coffin and touched it, and the bearers stopped. "Young man", he said, "I tell you, get up".***

***15. And dead boy sat up and began to talk! And Jesus gave him back to his mother.***

But did he answer my prayer at that time when my mother-in-law had died? No! He didn't. Maybe there was a reason. It may be because my mother in law was almost 90. But now my young brother had died, leaving three small children and a wife behind. But I was discouraged about praying. Besides, the cremation would be over within a few hours. I didn't know what to do. The sky had fallen on me. I was crushed. Again and again I uttered, "God loves me and he takes away my brother! God loves my mother and he takes away her son! God loves my brother and he takes him away from his family!" Then, probably I repented for accusing my Lord and being so sarcastic! I don't remember for sure. Maybe I didn't. Maybe I thought: God had no mercy. I was

too confused to pray. I didn't know what to pray. The church which we had been attending had taught us that we should not pray for a person after he dies.

My manager sent me beautiful flowers to comfort me but my sorrow was too deep to be comforted. Then, I remembered the power of worship. I played my worship tape day and night, every day as I prepared to fly, during my flight, during my stay in Mumbai and on my way back home. I worshiped the Lord. I knew there was great power in worship. Thank you church, for the wonderful gift of that worship tape! ☺ Worship gave me a lot of peace.

I had disagreed with my church in understanding the following Scripture passage.

**1 Peter 3: 18, 19, 20**

***18. For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for unrighteous, to bring to God, he was put to death in the body but made alive by the spirit,***

***19. through whom also he went and preached to the spirits in prison***

***20. who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built.***

My understanding of the above Scriptures is that God ministered to the spirits of the dead (those who died in the time of Noah) after their death but my church did not agree with me. I knew the great power in worship and I continued to worship. I knew that if I worshiped the Lord, he would take control of the situation and do something good.

Several weeks after my brother's death, I was in my favorite place spending time with my Lord, during my coffee break. The Lord was trying to talk to me about my brother but I continued with my other concerns at the time.

The next day again, I was there during my coffee break. The Lord again tried to talk to me about my brother. I listened. The Lord told me not to worry about my brother's salvation because he is saved. This was a very peaceful encounter with my Lord. Thank you Lord, for the assurance you gave me about his salvation.

As I meditate more on the Scriptures, I encourage people to pray for those who have died.

**Matthew 14: 12, 13**

***12. John's disciples came and took his body and buried it. Then, they went and told Jesus.***

**13. When Jesus heard what had happened** (John the Baptist was beheaded) **he withdrew by boat to a private place.**

My understanding of the above Scripture is that Jesus went to a solitary place to pray for John the Baptist who was beheaded. However, he was interrupted by a crowd and he compassionately healed the sick and fed them.

**Matthew 14: 22, 23**

**22. Immediately** (after he fed over five thousand people) **Jesus made the disciples get into boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd.**

**23. After he had dismissed them, he went up to the hills by himself to pray.**

My understanding of the above Scripture is that Jesus went to pray for John the Baptist, who was beheaded. My understanding of the Scripture is that God will answer our prayers for our loved ones who have died.

There are a lot of people in the world who have never had an opportunity to hear about the salvation plan of God Almighty. God is a loving heavenly Father. Why would God allow people to perish if they never heard of our Savior, Jesus the Lord? God is compassionate. I believe that God has compassion towards those who died and never had an opportunity to know the Lord Jesus. Therefore, I personally believe in praying for my loved ones who have died. Also, my happiness will not be complete if I don't see my loved ones with me in heaven.

If you like, please join me in prayer.

**Prayer: Father God, I come to you in the mighty name of Jesus our Lord and Savior and by the authority of his precious blood. Father, I pray for my readers and our loved ones and specifically those who have lost their very dear parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, children, grandchildren, friends and relatives that you will comfort them as they worship you with all their heart. I pray that you will give them wisdom about what to pray and you will heal their sorrows.**





*Love you  
brother!*

*Nothing can  
replace you,  
brother!*

*You will always  
be remembered.*

*Lord, thank you*

*for taking care of my  
brother's salvation.*

**Thank you Manager, for your kindness and beautiful flowers!  
Thank you church, for the uplifting worship tape!**

**Matthew 5: 4**

***Happy are those who mourn; God will comfort them.***

**A Suggestion to the Readers:**

When you don't know what to pray for and how to pray, worship the Lord. The Lord knows the deepest things of your heart. The Lord knows your aches and pains. The Lord knows what you require. He is all sufficient. He knows how to give you peace and comfort. If you feel you are disappointed with God, he is ready to hear how you feel. When we cry, God has tears for us because He feels the pain that we are going through. He has a shoulder that you can pour your tears on. He feels that pain that you feel.

**John 11: 33 to 35 Authorized King James Version**

**33. When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and Jews also weeping which came with her, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled.**

**34. And said, "*Where have you laid him?*" They said unto him, Lord, come and see.**

**35. Jesus wept.**

## CHAPTER 4

### MANAGER & SUPERVISOR

#### No Jurisdiction

Once, a desperate lady, who was being harassed by her building manager, called me for help. We had no jurisdiction or a remedy for this kind of situation. We were not given an option for intervention or mediation between the parties at that time. I felt sorry for this woman and more so because our office was unable to help her as it was not within our jurisdiction at that time. So, I offered that if she was willing, I could pray for her. She agreed and I quoted her the following Scriptures.

#### ***Mathew 5: 44 New International Version***

***44. But I tell you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”***

Then, I prayed for her building manager and about her situation with him.

A little later, she called me with good news. She told me that her manager had come over and apologized to her. **Praise the name of Jesus! Oh, what a power there is in prayer!**

#### **Manager’s Order:**

One of my colleagues overheard me and informed our office manager, Leena. She called me into her office and gave me a warning not to pray for people ever again in the office. Oh, what a waste of my job! Our company’s motto was to help people in need but we just didn’t have the avenue to help in certain situations, as it was outside of our jurisdiction. Helping this woman through the power of prayer could have given our company a better reputation. But our manager and our employer wanted nothing to do with prayer. Here I had the perfect opportunity to help people resolve their conflicts by praying, but our organization did not believe in prayer and wouldn’t allow me to pray. History repeats itself as I see similar situation in the Bible.

#### ***Acts 3: 1 to 10***

- 1. One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer- at three in the afternoon.***
- 2. Now a man crippled from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts.***
- 3. When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money.***

- 4. Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then, Peter said: "Look at us!**
- 5. So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.**
- 6. Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk."**
- 7. Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly man's feet and ankles became strong.**
- 8. He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping and praising God.**
- 9. When all the people saw him walking and praising God,**
- 10. They recognized him as the same man, who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.**

**Order from the Priest, the Captain and the Sadducees:**

**Acts 4: 1**

*The priest and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people.*

**Acts: 4: 18**

*Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.*

Similarly, at this place of work, I was ordered not to pray for anybody ever again!

### **Supervision:**

At one time, the management decided that the supervisors will go around and listen to our conversation by tapping into our phone-lines.

Then, my supervisor Mary came to my desk and joined into my telephone lines with her headphones. Almost every minute, she interrupted me while I was talking to a client and gave me advice on what to say and what questions I should have asked, etc. She made my conversation with the general public completely uncomfortable and difficult. This was humiliating for me. It must have been annoying for the people I talked to because I had to put them on 'hold' every few minutes.

A few minutes later, she went to another colleague Romeo's desk. I happened to have a question about certain matters and I went looking for her. She was then talking

to Romeo and she didn't tap into his phone lines nor was he logged into the phone lines. She was talking with him about her personal matters that had nothing to do with our work or our organization. I stood by waiting on her to make a conversation of important work matters. She saw me waiting for her then, but didn't care and made me wait. Later, when she paid attention to me, she went into a long conversation that was not the subject matter of my question. My understanding of her conversation with me was that I should have given her some money and that would have worked well with her. I absolutely did not know why I should have given her any money. I didn't owe her anything. I didn't know if she wanted money for giving me a nice letter of reference. I had received letters of reference from many of my previous employers and nobody had ever asked me such a thing. They have also talked to my prospective employers about my work but never asked me for any money. Employers usually give letters of reference as a sign of goodwill towards employees. They also talk to prospective employers to show goodwill towards their ex-employees. If they were to give good reference for an exchange of money, it wouldn't be a good reference. I believe that "money can't buy good references just as money can't buy love".

I just ignored her as if I didn't listen to her or understand her roundabout way of talking. Again, giving reference to someone for a price is not a true reference.

I wish we had Bible teachings in our workplaces. The Bible has a lot of good advice for employers and employees. I am glad that by this time, I had matured in my Christian faith and Scripture understanding.

#### **1 Peter 2: 18 to 20**

***<sup>18</sup> Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust.***

***<sup>19</sup> For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly.***

***<sup>20</sup> For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God.***

#### **Colossians 3:23**

***Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men.***

#### **Colossians 4:1**

***Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a master in heaven.***

If you like, you can join with me in this prayer.

***Prayer: Father God, I come to you in the mighty name of Jesus our Lord and Savior and by the authority of his precious blood. Lord, I pray for all the employees, employers and superiors that they will work honestly, wisely, with***

***integrity, in harmony with one another, respecting one another and to the satisfaction of the supreme authority of God.***



***Peace be with you.***

**My Favorite Scriptures:**

***1 Thessalonians 5: 14 ESV***

***Brother and sisters, we urge you to warn those who are lazy. Encourage those who are timid. Take tender care of those who are weak. Be patient with everyone.***

***Ephesians 4: 29 ESV***

***Let not corrupting talk come out of your mouth, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.***

## CHAPTER 5

### JEALOUSY AND HARASSMENT

#### Seminars:

Our office often received requests from various organizations inviting us to their offices for organizing a seminar explaining to them the work of our branch.

My first public speech at Public Trustee's Office was a tremendous success. The host circulated feed-back report forms to the audience to evaluate my presentation of the seminar. They all gave me excellent reports. I passed them on to my supervisor, who was then Lora. (Their letter is enclosed in Appendix, herewith)



*Thank you, lovely audience  
for giving me valuable feedback  
about my presentation!*

#### Harassment:

After these experiences, I realized that Mary was prompting Lora to harass me in my job in many ways. So, Lora kept calling me into her office, talking to me about many unfounded charges.

Then, once I had a prescheduled seminar appointment with JI and she made me late from the office to go for my speaking engagement during a heavy snowy day. Then, she brought disciplinary action against me, accusing me of being late for my speaking engagement.

She also gave me another disciplinary letter, manufacturing various faults with my work.

She accused me of taking a landlord's application for an order of possession prematurely. I had to show her that the tenant had already disputed the notice of eviction and that overrode his legislative waiting time to take the legal action.

She also accused me of writing to a landlord living overseas that the hearing could be scheduled as conference call hearing, without the department's permission. I had to show her that she had reviewed my letter and she had made no objection about me informing the clients that the hearing would be by conference calls. All these years that I had worked in this office, it had always been a practice that the hearings were

always scheduled by conference call when the parties were at distant locations, including overseas.

There were many such unfounded manufactured faults in her disciplinary letters. I filed grievances against supervisor Lora for both the disciplinary letters. My two shop stewards, Niki and Sherry, represented me. They were both very helpful.

### **Conflict of Interest:**

Both of these two supervisors, Mary and Lora, looked after two different groups of employees. We also had two managers, Lin and Katy, to look after each of these groups. Manager Lin gave us opportunity to work as a temporary supervisor for two weeks to each of the information officers on a rotating basis, in the absence of supervisor Mary. When it was my turn to work as a supervisor for two weeks, Lora took me to another manager Katy in the absence of manager Lin and complained about me and rescinded my supervisory position and gave it to my shop stewards Niki and Sherry for one week each. For Niki and Sherry to accept the positions of a temporary supervisor, which was snatched away from me, was definitely in conflict of interest. Niki was still helpful to me in her role as my shop steward but Sherry became less cooperative. Surprisingly, Sherry was also a Sunday school teacher in a reputable church.

Niki showed her frustration that her job was too stressful. It is my understanding that the employer was hard on her and expecting her not to defend my case. My understanding is very logical because our employer did bribe her by snatching the position from me and giving it to her. But Niki didn't look very happy. In a short period of time, she no longer worked with us. It is my understanding that she did not want to act like a puppet to please the superiors and therefore she quit her job. I understood that she just wanted to do her job well as an employee as well as a shop steward. However, my other shop steward, Sherry, continued with her job and was very happy to get promotions.

It is very disappointing that the union shop steward can be in a supervisory position. In my opinion, it is shameful to have any union protecting your job when the shop steward can be your supervisor! It just does not feel comfortable to have your supervisor as your shop steward!

### **Yeast of the Pharisees:**

My colleagues were becoming unfriendly towards me due to the influence of our supervisors Lora and Mary. There had been a practice of passing a plate for everybody's birthday and giving a gift to the birthday person. Now, they stopped the contribution for my birthday. I overheard Romeo talking to other colleagues saying that it was not fair. Then, I saw that he went around everyone and later he gave me a belated birthday card with cash gift. He cared for me. Thanks, Romeo, for standing by my side. Jesus talks about how sin can spread among people just as a small amount of yeast can make the dough rise.

### **Matthew 16: 6**

***“Be careful,” Jesus said to them. “Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”***

### **Matthew 16: 12**

***Then they understood that he was not telling them to guard against the yeast used in bread, but against the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.***

Lora’s mistreatment of me had spread to almost all of my colleagues like yeast working its way through dough and they all started harassing me. I presumed that she was responsible for abetting them to do so. One friendly colleague of an ethnic background, Jo who used to read his Bible in his coffee break, all of a sudden became rude and un-co-operative with me in work related issues and insulted me once. I suspect that he was abetted by my superiors to do so because, previously, he used to be nice to me. However, he did this only once and never after, till I retired.

### **Moving to Another Office:**

After the grievance procedure was over, manager Katy moved me to work in another branch office in the south. Before moving there, during my prayer time, God warned me through the Scriptures that I was heading towards more trouble and I would be facing many challenges and going through a rough road ahead.

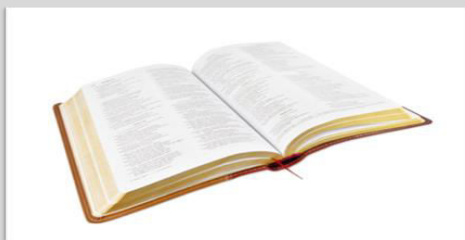
### **Warning from the Bible**

### **Luke 21: 17, 18**

***17. All men will hate you because of me. ☹***

***18. But not a hair of your head will perish. ☺***

I tried my best to win the people by sending them a friendly email. Who in the world would like to work in an office full of hate? “Not a hair of my head will perish” – what a comforting verse for me! God also gave me a Scripture below in **Daniel 6:26**



### ***Daniel 6: 26***

***I issue a decree that in every part of my Kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel.***

## **Our God be praised in Our Land:**

Perhaps God was telling me that people in my province and even in my country will worship my God. I am still waiting for God to reveal to me His interpretation of this Scripture. Maybe, there is still time to fulfill this Scripture. I pray that God will fulfill His promise and that all people in my province and in my country will worship my God. I also pray that the whole earth will be full of the glory of the Lord.

## **Farewell to the Main Branch:**



Before leaving the main office, I sent a friendly email to say goodbye to my colleagues. Some brought me flowers; some took me out for lunch and some people responded by email. It was a general practice to have a potluck when somebody is leaving, but I was the black sheep. I was thankful to my manager Katy that she did not decline my request to give me some free time to meet each and every person in the office before leaving. I am more thankful to the Holy Spirit who gave me courage, wisdom and a cheerful countenance to talk with everyone even though a few of my colleagues had turned sour towards me due to the influence of our supervisor.

If you are experiencing harassment in your workplace, and would like to pray, please join with me.

### ***Prayer:***

***Father God, I come to you in the mighty name of Jesus our Lord and Savior and by the authority of his blood and on behalf of my readers. Father, I pray for my readers that if they are having struggles with their employer, superiors, and/or colleagues, I pray that you will give them wisdom, patience and courage to deal with the situation. I pray that you will give them peace, clear thinking and creative ideas as to what to do. Above all, I pray that they will be able to resolve their differences and help them to work peacefully and joyfully with one another.***



## **CHAPTER 6**

### **SPREAD OF POLLUTION**

#### **Starting in the New Office:**

As I started working in the new office in the south, my new supervisor, Doby, informed me that she was aware of what had happened to me in the main office. I gave her the copies of my grievance files so she would know my side of the story. Everything went smoothly with everybody in the beginning. I presumed she read my files and understood my position. To me, it looked like, she was agreeable with me in the matter of my conflict with my previous supervisor in the main office, but we never discussed my challenges in that office. She often asked me to go for a walk with her during break time. My colleagues saw that the supervisor was going out with me. Then, they also asked me to go for a walk with them, from time to time.

#### **Coping With Harassment from the New Supervisor: ☹**

Supervisors from various offices met to discuss various issues from time to time. When Doby returned from the supervisors' meetings, she tried to find faults with my work.

When she didn't ask me to go for a walk after returning from their meetings, I wanted to find out what would be her response if I ask her. So, I did, but she had some excuse not to go out with me. My colleagues also stopped asking me to go for a walk with me. Actually, that did not bother me at all because I would rather be with the Holy Spirit during break time than with anybody else.

Then, Doby kept calling me into her office. She started nit-picking about things that were not much of importance to our work. She falsely accused me, found fault with my work, and gave me warnings. Later, she also raised her voice and often she looked like a witch when she got cross. I felt sorry for her because she looked stressed out from harassing me. She was angry but my countenance was peaceful because Holy Spirit gave me peace. I continued with the same practice that I did in my previous office. Each and every time she called me into her office, I sent her an email summarizing the discussion between us. She rebuked me for sending her too many emails. Then, I started writing letters to her in my personal time, describing the discussion between us, her concerns, my response to her concerns and her final decision. I asked her to inform me if there was any discrepancy. She didn't comment and didn't like to receive my letters. The harassment kept increasing. It was painful and stressful. But the Lord gave me peace and strength.

#### **My Comforter and my Teachers: ☺**

I was also hurting at times. Soon, the Holy Spirit of God, my Teacher & Comforter gave me peace and comfort, and showed me how to deal with the problems. Then, I was able to overcome my hurts. Thanks Holy Spirit! I had also learned to keep

peace in difficult situations from reading the book written by Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, "Stay Alive 365 Days in a Year". In his words: "Peace of mind generates power". Thank you, Dr. Peale; you have been a good teacher.

Because of the power of peace that Holy Spirit had given me, I was able to concentrate on clients' issues and give them good service right after Doby had given me hard time in her office. I felt she was sucking my blood. Almost all of her shouting and screaming were very stressful. I wasn't able to respond to her face to face because whenever I tried to speak, she would cut me off and interrupt me with anger. I couldn't finish a single sentence. Wisdom of God and peace of the Holy Spirit gave me power to withhold all my responses and concentrate on the problems of my clients and give them proper service. I prepared my responses to my supervisor, later in my personal times. I had to give her written letters in response to all that she had discussed with me because she would never let me fully express myself by continuously interrupting me.

### **Puppet:**

It is my understanding that Doby was just a puppet. However, I also understood that she really didn't want to harass me but was ordered to harass me. However, she was not able to harass me to the fullest because I was documenting in writing what she said to me in her office every time we had a talk. She showed great displeasure when I handed in the essence of the discussion of her meeting with me.

### **Nothing to Lose:**

Supervisors and managers can find time to harass employees when the employees' pay checks do not come from their pockets. Therefore, they have all the time in the world to harass anybody they don't like. They can harass anybody due to jealousy and selfish motives. They have nothing to lose by wasting people's time.

Whereas in a private sector, where the employers are concerned about their profit and loss, the superiors are less likely to harass their employees because it would be waste of the salaries paid to employees and superiors. For private owner, it is not profitable to waste time on harassment. Superiors who do not own the company will not care to waste time on harassment.

### **Spreading of the Yeast:**

By this time, all my colleagues had turned sour towards me and they were constantly harassing me. It is my understanding that my superiors were abetting them to do so. It was spreading against me just like yeast spreads in a batch of dough as explained in Matthew 16: 6 & 12.

### **Matthew 16: 6**

***'Be careful,' Jesus said to them. 'Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.'***

## **Matthew 16: 12**

***Then, they understood that he was not telling them about the yeast used in bread, but against the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.***

### **Praying for Enemies:**

According to scriptures, I prayed for all colleague and superiors regularly, but it did not seem to change their hearts and behavior, not in my situation. However, praying for them helped me to have peace of mind.

## **Luke 6: 27, 28**

***27. But I tell you who hear me: “Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you.***

***28. Bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.”***

### **It felt like Discrimination:**

In this office also, employees kept track of everybody's birthday and circulated a plate for collection. They had purposely missed my birthday. It was my 50th birthday.

Sometime later, I informed my colleagues of my decision to quit our social group of birthdays and occasions. Then, Suvy and Josy also quit the social group. I was really surprised. Judy's 50th birthday came. They had decided to have a potluck for her birthday with a cake for dessert. They asked for my contribution for the cake. I firmly said that I quit the social group long time ago. Suvy who had also quit the social group, tried to persuade me to contribute for the cake, emphasizing that it was for her **fiftieth** birthday. My decision was final that I would only bring food for the potluck lunch. When they were about to cut the cake, I was with a client. One of my colleagues interrupted me to come inside for the cake cutting. Probably, my supervisor sent her to get me. I stood next to Judy and sang 'happy birthday' song with others. Judy blew the candle and started cutting. I passed on the cake to all my colleagues with a very cheerful countenance. They offered me cake but I didn't take it, because I never eat white sugar in my diet. Judy's birthday was the last one celebrated in our office of the south. After this, no other birthday was celebrated.

Sometime later, my eldest brother passed away. He had been sick for a long time and I was praying for him every day. I could not go to visit him as I was occupied with filing grievances and coping with harassment. When I returned from the bereavement leave, only Pravin came and consoled me for the loss of my brother. Then, our receptionist Deny's father passed away and immediately a collection plate was passed and flowers were sent to her right away. However, God has comforted me for my brother's salvation. Comfort from God is much more valuable than flowers.

## **Polluted Office:**

We had a blackboard where the scheduler would write how much time it would take for them to prepare the documents for the clients, depending upon the volume of files received to be scheduled. We would inform our clients when they could pick up their documents to serve to the other party, according to the preparation time on the board. At one point, Josy, a scheduler, yelled at me that it would be three hours and not half an hour, complaining that she had to babysit me. They had just changed the time on the board without telling me. She ordered me to call the clients, in spite of the fact that I had no way to get hold of them. Also, I was already in the middle of a meeting with another client.

There were numerous other examples which showed how they were not cooperating with me and harassing me to make me look bad in front of the general public that we served.

Once, I sneezed and Josy told me to keep my germs away. Normally, in this country, when someone sneezes, people say, "Bless you".

## **Barking Dogs and Stupid Pigs:**



**I don't care if you bark all day,  
doggies. I can turn my deaf ears to  
your barking. I have the peace of  
God and I can do all my work  
ignoring you till your throats swell  
up and I can go to sleep in peace.**

Where I grew up, we had many stray barking dogs in our town. My father taught me that people often behave like barking dogs and make foolish remarks that don't make sense. We should not argue with them nor get upset over it. We need to ignore such foolish remarks and get on with our lives. Barking back at the dogs or being upset with their barking is useless.

My father's teaching was powerful. Therefore, whenever people say senseless things I am able to ignore them, as I would ignore barking dogs without getting hurt emotionally or in any way. I do not allow this needless barking to interrupt me from what I am doing. I don't need to respond to them. I thank my father because whatever years he lived with us were very valuable. His memories are delightful fragrance in my life. Our Lord Jesus also taught us in a similar manner:

### **Matthew 7: 6**

***“Do not give dogs what is sacred; Do not throw your pearls to the pigs. If you do they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.”***

With such advice from the Lord, there was no reason to respond to their pig-like foolish remarks and doggy behavior. My mother often said: “Do not teach ‘Bhagavat’ to a buffalo.” This is because ‘Bhagvat’ is highly intellectual scripture of Hindus that people with mental capacity of a buffalo cannot understand. Pigs do not understand God’s Words that are valuable like pearls. People whose mental capacity which is equal to the minds of dogs, pigs or buffalos, we don’t need to respond to.

One day, I found a sign in my cubicle: “Repent Sinner!” It was rude and hurtful. I thank the Lord that because of our sins, he came into this world. He defends me in front of our Father in heaven against satan’s accusations. I am justified in his blood!

### **Mark 2: 17**

***On hearing this, Jesus said to them, ‘it is not the healthy who needs a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.’***

### **1 John 2:1**

***“My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense – Jesus Christ the righteous one!”***

I am so thankful that Jesus is my defender and he speaks on my behalf. Those unbelievers are still sinners, whereas I am declared ‘righteous’! Thank you, Jesus!

Once, when I was on my lunch break, the receptionist, Deny, screamed at me, “What are you doing in the lunch room? Your client is waiting outside!” I peacefully, finished my lunch before attending to my client. This is why Jesus said.

### **John 14:27 New International Version (NIV)**

***<sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.***

### **John 15: 20**

***Remember the words I spoke to you. ‘No servant is greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also.’***

## **John 15: 21**

***They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me.***

I was being persecuted. It was becoming worse day by day. People hated Jesus, so they hated me. People mocked Jesus. They sneered at him, and so they did that to me as well. As Jesus said, surely no servant is greater than his master. Thus, Jesus has forewarned me and comforted me about this.

## **Matthew 5: 10, 11, 12**

***10. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.***

***11. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.***

***12. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.***

All the staff members in my office: colleagues and superiors were my enemies. I had no problem with arbitrators as they were not of our staff. The general public who contacted us and personally came to see us were fine with me. The only true friends I had with me were God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth, Lord Jesus, the Savior of the world and the Holy Spirit. These three friends were far more sufficient to me than the entire office.

God gives us inner peace and power. This power does not appear like loud shouting, loud threats, violent anger, wild fires or weapons' fearful noises. This power is peaceful and calm. It feels like a cold stream of water in the midst of red-hot lava. There is a source of inner peace even in the midst of a volatile atmosphere. This power does not make us shout or thump our feet or smash things or throw temper tantrum to raise our blood pressure. Those things are really signs of weakness. But, this power is confident and cool, even in the midst of burning fire. It reminds me of Moses when he came to Sinai, the mountain of God.

## **Exodus 3: 1, 2, 3**

***1. One day Moses was leading the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Median. He led the flock far into the wilderness and came to Sinai, the mountain of God.***

***2. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a blazing fire from the middle of the bush. Moses stared in amazement. Though the bush was engulfed in flames it didn't burn up.***

**3. *“This is amazing”, Moses said to himself.***

Just as the bush was engulfed in flames without burning, God had given me peace to provide good service to my clients even in the midst of such a volatile office. His power is like delightful cool breeze in the midst of burning fire that helps us with our blood circulation from head to toe. His peace gives us power to forgive and pray for our enemies, while continuing to fulfill our day to day duties. There is power in forgiveness.

***Matthew 5: 43 to 48***

**43. *You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbors and hate your enemies’***

**44. *But I tell you: “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,***

**45. *That you may be the sons of your father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain to righteous and the unrighteous.***

**46. *If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that?***

**47. *and if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than the others? Do not even pagans do that?***

**48. *Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”***

When Jesus was on the cross, he had peace and power to forgive and therefore he was able to say:

***Luke 23:34***

***Jesus said: “Father forgive them because they don’t know what they are doing.”***

While working in this office, all my colleagues were harassing me constantly, day after day, however, I was able to give good service to the general public and pray for my enemies because of God’s peace around me.

***Luke 24: 36***

***.....Jesus himself was suddenly standing there among them. “Peace be with you,” he said.***

While working in the south branch office, I prayed for my colleagues every day because of **His peace over me**. Also, listening to the following true story on TV has encouraged me to pray for my enemies.

### **True Story in a Nutshell:**

A few Americans were hijacked in Lebanon, having been tortured and beaten up. The Lebanese were singing a slogan: "One American must die!" One Christian American started praying for these hijackers, asking God to heal their pain and sorrows, the root cause of their behavior. Ultimately, the hijacker who was beating up this man, took him to his home, gave him medical assistance, food, and offered him bath facilities and a bed to rest. Then, amazingly, they became friends.

This true story has influenced me to pray for those who have hurt me and ill-treated me. However, in my situation, even though I didn't see the results of my prayer in the same dramatic way as in this story above, God truly has rewarded me for obeying his words.

### **Luke 6: 22, 23**

***22. Blessed are you when men hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil because of the Son of Man.***

***23. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. Because that is how their fathers treated the prophets.***

### **Luke 6: 27, 28**

***27. But I tell you who hear me. Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you.***

***28. Bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.***

### **Coping With the Polluted Office**

I prayed at home before going to my office. It seemed like my colleagues were just waiting for me to insult me, find fault with me and harass me. It reminded me of Daniel entering the den of lions. I also had the same feeling each day when I entered my office that I was facing a den of foolish, impudent and insolent people, like lions trying to tear me to pieces mentally, emotionally and psychologically. They were just too wise not to hurt me physically; they were smart enough to circumvent the consequences of breaking the law.

### **Who Can Help?**

Our union didn't have the jurisdiction over resolving problems between colleagues. The jurisdiction of the Human Rights Commission was limited to any

discrimination due to race, nationality, color, etc. But if they didn't say any racial slurs, it was not considered a case of racial discrimination. My colleagues and superiors were smart enough not to say any racial slurs to circumvent the legal consequences. On the other hand, there were other colleagues and superiors of visible minority. My understanding from my observation was that they liked to 'suck up' to their superiors for the protection of their jobs. They acted like puppets towards their superiors. Therefore, they were not treated badly. Also, other colleagues of visible minority were more interested in protecting their own jobs by keeping their personal relationship with their superiors rather than being concerned about another colleague of their own ethnicity being mistreated.

My understanding was that our superiors abetted my colleagues to harass me because they were jealous. They wanted to hinder my abilities and progress. They wanted to make me sad enough to make me quit my job.

I couldn't take this matter to a Member of the Legislative Assembly. If I went to my MLA, the union would not help me at all for any issues.

I had come to the point where I felt like there was practically no recourse for me other than to quit my job. I believed that is exactly what they wanted me to do. But I am not a quitter.

### **Where Does my help come from?**

#### ***Psalm 121: 1, 2, 3***

- 1. I lift up my eyes to the hills-- where does my help come from?***
- 2. My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.***
- 3. Indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.***

The only option available for me was to work in the middle of this roaring lions' den with the peace of mind that God had bestowed upon me! God is amazing! He gives us peace in the midst of turmoil! He puts armour around us so that the arrows of insults, harassment, lies, and injustice from the enemy cannot penetrate through it! We don't get hurt! Arrows bounce back to the enemy to their dismay! God fills us with his Holy Spirit and He gives us joy. And with the spirit of joy, all sadness, fear, confusion and boredom vanishes! The joy that Holy Spirit gives us is beyond human understanding. Peace and joy can thrive in a volatile atmosphere, like Daniel had peace in the middle of lions' den!

#### ***Daniel 6: 19 to 23***

- 19. At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den.***

**20. When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?”**



Because of Daniel's faith in God, the lions did not hurt him at all.

**Daniel 6:16**

**So the king gave the order and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lion's den. The king said to Daniel, “May your God whom you serve continually rescue you.”**

**Daniel's Amazing Faith in God!**

**21. Daniel answered, “O king, live forever!**

**22. My God sent his angels and shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I done anything wrong before you, O king.”**

**23. The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.**

In my situation, my colleagues were not quiet. I believe that they were harassing me to make me quit my job. But it did not happen because they were ‘roaring’ and ‘barking’ in vain. Their harassment could not penetrate me because I was protected by the armour of God. Their negative and insulting comments bounced back to them without hurting me, mentally or psychologically. In fact, it was making me stronger. The anger, sadness, disappointments, depression and all negative feelings that they were trying to shower on me were nothing compared to the peace, patience, wisdom, calmness and joy that was showered upon me by the Holy Spirit of God! I had no reason to quit my job. They were trying to make me quit my job in vain. Amazingly, a good number of colleagues, supervisors and managers left their jobs but not me. 😊

There is another way to describe this office. It was like a burning oven where all my colleagues acted like hot burning coals. As soon as I walked into that office, it was like I was walking on hot coals and surrounded by hot coals. Just like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego who were able to go into the fiery furnace without getting burnt, I was able to work in that office where nobody relying only on human strength could survive. I couldn't have survived without the Holy Spirit of God helping me. Here is a Scripture about Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

**Daniel 3: 17 to 27**

**17. If we are thrown into a blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king.**

**18. But if he does not, we want you to know, O king that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.**

**19. Then, Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual**

**20. and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace.**

**21. So these men wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace.**

**22. The king's command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the men who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.**

**23. and these three men firmly tied fell into the blazing furnace.**

**24. Then king Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, "Wasn't it three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?" They replied, "Certainly O king."**

**25. He said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed and the fourth looks like a son of the gods."**

**26. Nebuchadnezzar then approached opening of the blazing furnace and shouted," Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!" So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire,**

**27. and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisors crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies nor was a hair of their head singed, their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them.**

I was also working in a fiery office full of abuse, insults, disrespect, unfair rebuke and non-cooperation. Despite all these things, **I felt God was continuously blowing a cool, refreshing and fragrant breeze over me in the midst of it. His armor protected my spirit, mind and emotions, helping me to give good service to the public with peace of mind, to do my job well and, at the end of the day, experience the joy of the Lord.** This may be because of my practice of worshipping the Lord frequently. I worshipped the Lord, regardless of my circumstances.

**Psalm 29: 11**

***The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace.***

**Psalm 85: 8**

***I will listen to what God the Lord will say; he promises peace to his people his saints but let them not return to folly.***

**Psalm 119: 165**

***Great peace have they who love your law and nothing can make them stumble.***

**John 14: 27**

***Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you, I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.***

**John 16: 33**

***I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.***

**Romans 15: 13**

***May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.***

**Philippians 4: 6 to 7**

***6. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God.***

***7. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.***

**James 1: 2, 3, 4**

***2. Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds.***

***3. Because you know that testing of your faith develops perseverance.***

***4. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete not lacking in anything.***

The Holy Spirit gave me peace, courage and wisdom in all situations to continue to work to fulfill the purpose of God and to enable me to provide good service to people. **Not a hair of my head did perish!** Nothing could stop me from expressing my views at any time!

**Exodus 15:2**

***The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. He is my God and I will praise him, my father's God and I will exalt him.***

**Psalm 18:32**

***It is God who arms me with strength and makes my way perfect.***

**Psalm 28: 6, 7**

- 6. Praise be to the Lord, for he has heard my cry for mercy.***
- 7. The Lord is my strength and shield, my heart trusts in him and I am helped. My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him in songs.***

**Romans 12: 12**

***Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer.***

**Romans 15: 13**

***May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.***

**Galatians 5: 22, 23**

***22. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23. gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.***

**Ephesians 6: 10 to 18**

***10. Finally, be strong in the Lord and his mighty power.***

***11. Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.***

***12. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.***

**13. Therefore, put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.**

**14. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place.**

**15. And your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.**

**16. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.**

**17. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.**

**18. And pray in Spirit on all occasion with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and keep on praying for all the saints.**

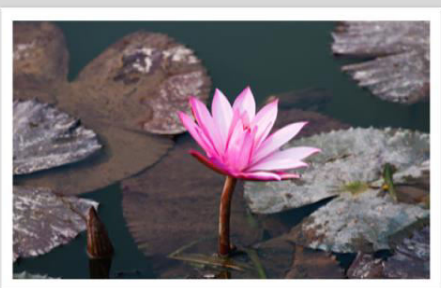
**Philippians 4: 4**

***Rejoice in the Lord always, I will say it again: rejoice!***

**1 Thessalonians 5: 16, 17, 18**

**16. Be joyful always, 17: Pray continuously; 18: give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.**

**Lotus:**



***Beautiful lotus in polluted water***

***I thank you father, for your loving instructions. You will always be in my heart. See you in heaven.***

Since childhood, my father had taught me to become like a lotus. Although, a lotus grows in the dirty mud, it absorbs all the nutrients from the mud, leaving all the toxins behind and becomes a beautiful flower. Similarly, we live in a filthy world full of evil, but we need not absorb the toxins of the world, but only the nutrients, and become as beautiful as a lotus. Surely, my father had taught me to live a victorious life in the filth of this world, so I was able to give my best service to my clients in the midst of such turmoil with filth.

Surely, maturity in faith in Christ and Scripture reading made me strong in the worst circumstances and to overcome the attacks of the enemy by wearing the full armour of God.

### **Grievance Again:**

Finally, my supervisor, Doby gave me a very negative Work Performance Review. This made me very depressed, and as a result, I cried a lot. In due time, I regained my strength and filed a grievance against her. My shop steward, Judy, took my grievance to my manager, Ivy.

### **2 Timothy 1: 7**

***For God hath not given us a spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of sound mind.***

### **Wolves in Sheep Clothing:**



*Wolf in sheep clothing*

#### **Mathew 7:15**

***Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.***

One day, my colleague, Suvy approached me and compassionately asked me how I was coping with the mistreatment from my colleagues. Basically, she was acting like a wolf in sheep's clothing. She wanted to know the secret of my strength and figure out how to weaken my strength. But I did not recognize her motives then. Now, I think that she was sent by the management to find the secret of my strength. That is why it is so important to read the Bible every day. Because I was not aware of their secret motives, I mentioned to her that the general public that I serve appreciates my work and that's what I care for. I also gave her an example of how a small child can get hurt even by small things. When a child becomes mature, those small things don't matter anymore. By the same token, when we become mature, we can often ignore peoples' childish behavior because we have learned how to not allow it to affect us negatively..

The fact is that my father had taught me to ignore the 'stupid barking dogs' without letting their barking affect me mentally, as I explained earlier in this chapter. However, I didn't have the courage to tell her face to face that I was comparing my colleagues to stupid stray dogs who keep barking senselessly. I am not an insolent person by nature. My answer to her was not incorrect but partial. It was not just the appreciation of the general public that gave me strength, but the Holy Spirit of God who gave me peace under a very difficult situation and gave me strength to perform my

duties without any mental break-down. The Holy Spirit of God gave me wisdom to work with grievances and still maintain my peace of mind. I had failed to give glory to God and failed to remember Lord's counsel.

**Matthew 10: 16, 17**

**16. I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore, be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.**



*As innocent as a dove*



*As shrewd as a snake*

**17. But be on your guard against men, they will hand you over to the local councils and flog you in their synagogues.**

On another day, our director Leanna was in our South office. She talked to me personally, asking me the same question as to how I was able to cope with the mistreatment from my colleagues. I did not recognize her ill motives then! So, I told her the same thing that my clients' appreciation gives me strength to work. I did not recognize her ill motives then!

Later, after some time, I started to think and question how she knew that I was mistreated by my colleagues. Leanna was usually located at her head office on the Island. She did not have her own office at our location in South where I worked! She never saw me being mistreated by my colleagues. I had never complained to my supervisor who worked from the same location. We never talked about the colleagues mistreating me. The supervisor, Doby, was most of the time in her office with her door closed. Colleagues did not mistreat me in front of any superior or managerial staff members. There was no point in complaining to anybody because their behavior was childish. Union didn't have any jurisdiction on this matter! It is a mystery to me that director Leanna found out that I was being mistreated by my colleagues!

Now, all of these makes me think that the most probable reason Leanna knew that my colleagues were mistreating me was because probably my colleagues were incited by her to harass me, insult me and be uncooperative towards me. That is the only way she could have found out that my colleagues were mistreating me.

## **Consequences of not being Shrewd:**

Then, just a few days after my conversation with Leanna, a couple of clients posing as a mother and a daughter walked into our office. We generally serve the clients on a 'first come first serve' basis. However, receptionist Deny asked me to take these two ladies, first. I didn't argue with her and called them in. They showed me an 'order of possession'. They were asked to move out of their apartment in two days. So, they asked me what to do as they had no place to go. I gave them an application for the review of the arbitrator's order, explaining to them the circumstance under which they could apply and the purpose of the application, etc. I was pointing to them with my pen on the application form where to write their names, address and all the details, the dispute address, etc. All of a sudden, the mother shouted to call the police and accused me of hitting her daughter with my pen. We used to have a spare phone for the general public for their personal use. I suggested them to go there and make a phone call.

I then, called the 'next person' in line. This lady told me that she saw everything that I had not hit her or done anything wrong to her.

My accusing clients did not call the police but went to the receptionist, who then talked to my supervisor. Before I could even help this 'next person' (next client) with her problem, my supervisor Doby sent me a message to see her in her office. I had to leave this client in the interview booth. Doby screamed and shouted at me in her office, accusing me of seeing the 'next person' right after one client had accused me of assault charge. However, I did not see anything wrong as I had already done my duty to show the accuser where she could make a free phone call. Also, we were never given any instructions about what to do when somebody makes such allegations. It had never happened to me, before.

There is no doubt that this incident shook me up. However, it was still my duty to serve other clients for the rest of the day. I wasn't really worried about the police because I hadn't done anything wrong and there were many witnesses from the general public in our reception area. I also wanted to talk to other people so that they might tell me what they witnessed. I also trusted in my God. I think my supervisor could not handle the fact that I could have the courage and peace of mind to continue working after such allegations. I think she wanted to see me broken down, upset, sad, angry, and without peace. So, she rebuked me. It appeared to me that she was trying to make sure that I become upset and broken down and without my peace of mind.

This 'mother and daughter pair' was my first experience ever in working with this office in which the client had ever complained about me. By this time, I had been with the same company for seven years, of which four years were in the south branch office. Almost all the people that I served were satisfied with my service. Nobody had ever complained, until now.

A few days later, it occurred to me that my bosses were playing games with me. I just remembered the conversation with my director Leanne and my colleague Suvy about how they had asked me to find out how I was able to cope with my work despite

the mistreatment from my colleagues. I had told them that the 'appreciation I receive from the general public whom I serve' gives me strength to continue to work there. Now, I realize that it was like, all 'pre-organized and pre-planned drama' they put up before me. Now, I realize that these ladies were probably fictitious clients who were abetted to accuse me of assault charges, in order to break my confidence about serving the clients and to weaken my strength to work there!

It seemed obvious to me that those two ladies posing as clients gave me their names according to whatever appeared on the 'Order of Possession' document which may have been given to them by our office. It had never been our practice to verify the names of our clients or to ask for their identification. It seemed obvious to me that maybe my director may have arranged for these ladies to see me and give me a difficult time by bringing accusations against me. Maybe, the receptionist, Deny, had ill motives and asked me to see these two ladies first instead of calling the person next in line. These are all my suspicions based on logical thinking. God knows the truth.

Tenants, who received an 'order from an arbitrator to move out of their premises in two days', cannot find time to accuse an employee of an assault charge of hitting them with a pen and call the police! If they really had an order to move out, they would have been busy to fill out a review application and/or find a place to move out and start packing. If her daughter was really assaulted with my pen, she would have called the police! But she didn't. How would she have justified the alleged assault to the police? If she was hurt by my assault of pen, she would have called the doctor but she didn't.

Surely, I was not as shrewd as a snake to recognize their motives when I told director Leanna that my job satisfaction comes from my clients' appreciation. I think, they tried to weaken my strength by manufacturing complaints from clients. It appeared to me that they had hoped in vain that I would quit my job because of this incident!

A very similar incident is also recorded in the book of Judges in which Delilah nags Samson to tell her the secret of his strength.

#### ***Judges 16: 4 to 21***

- 4. Sometime later, he (Sampson) fell in love with a woman in the valley of Sorek whose name was Delilah.***
- 5. The rulers of the Philistines went to her and said, "See if you can lure him into showing you the secret of his great strength and how we can overpower him so we may tie him up and subdue him. Each one of us will give you eleven hundred shekels of silver"***
- 6. So Delilah said to Samson, "Tell me the secret of your great strength and how you can be tied up and subdued."***
- 7. Samson answered her, "If anyone ties me with seven fresh bowstrings that have not been dried, I'll become as weak as any other man."***

8. *Then the rulers of the Philistines brought her seven fresh bowstrings that had not been dried, and she tied him with them.*
9. *With men hidden in the room, she called to him, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" But he snapped the bowstrings as easily as a piece of string snaps when it comes close to a flame. So the secret of his strength was not discovered.*
10. *Now Delilah said to Samson, "You have made a fool of me, you lied to me. Come now, tell me how you can be tied."*
11. *He said, "If anyone ties me securely with new ropes that have never been used, I'll become as weak as any other man."*
12. *So Delilah took new ropes and tied him with them. Then, with men hidden in the room, she called him, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" But he snapped the ropes off his arms as if they were the threads.*
13. *Delilah then said to Samson, "All this time you have been making a fool of me and lying to me. Tell me how you can be tied." He replied, "If you weave the seven braids of my head into the fabric on the loom and tighten it with the pin, I'll become as weak as any other man." So while he was sleeping Delilah took the seven braids of his head, wove them into the fabric and tightened it with the pin.*
14. *Again she called to him, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" He awoke from his sleep and pulled up the pin and the loom, with the fabric.*
15. *Then she said to him, "How can you say, I love you, when you won't confide in me? This is the third time you have made a fool of me and haven't told me the secret of your great strength."*
16. *With such nagging she prodded him day after day until he was sick to death of it.*
17. *So he told her everything. "No razor has ever been used on my head," he said, "because I have been a Nazirite dedicated to God from my mother's womb. If my head were saved, my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as any other man."*
18. *When Delilah saw that he had told her everything, she sent word to the rulers of the Philistines, "Come back once more; he has told me everything." So the rulers of the philistines returned with the silver in their hands.*

**19. After putting him to sleep on her lap, she called for someone to shave off the seven braids of his hair, and so began to subdue him. And his strength left him.**

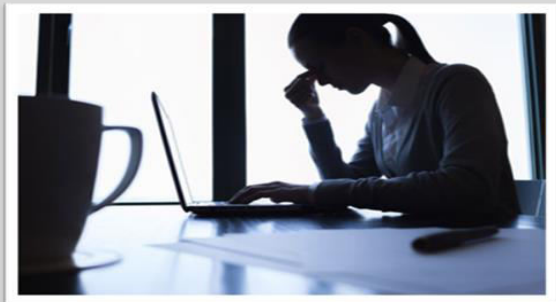
**20. Then she called, “Samson, the Philistines are upon you!” He awoke from his sleep and thought “I’ll go out as before and shake myself free.” But he did not know that the Lord had left him.**

**21. Then the Philistines seized him and gauged out his eyes and took him down to Gaza. Binding him with bronze shackles they sent him to grinding grain in the prison.**

History had repeated itself again. Just as Delilah tried to get the secret out of Samson, my employer tried to get the secret out of me concerning my strength to withstand the harassment of my colleagues and superiors. They were trying to find ways to weaken my strength so as to make me unable to cope with their harassment.

### **Stressed Out Supervisor:**

My supervisor, Doby, was stressed out from harassing me because I was making notes of all her vain nit-picking, rebukes, scolding and threats. She showed great displeasure every time I handed in my notes about her scolding. It looked like she was also stressed out from serving as a puppet of her manager and directors.



#### **Revelation 3:20**

***Here I am. I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will go in and eat with him, and he with me.***

***Dear Supervisor, Jesus is knocking at your door.***

***Supervisor, stressed out from harassing me.***

A similar example is recorded in the book of Daniel. The Babylonian guards who escorted Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were killed because of the heat of the flames. My supervisor was stressed out by harassing me and from being played as a puppet of her superiors.

### **Daniel 3: 22**

**The king’s command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the men who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.**

Finally, she left her supervisory position without informing us. There was no farewell party for her. She didn’t say ‘goodbye’ to anyone. I could not find her

anywhere in our company's directory. She did not even come to any grievance meetings. My understanding is that she quit her job and probably left our organization permanently. Just as flames of the fire killed the men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, it sounds like my supervisor was sick and tired from harassing me, eventually becoming unable to work there anymore.

I felt sorry for her. I pray that she will come to know God. God is forgiving to those who repent and come before the foot of the cross. I have forgiven her.

Some of our supervisors quit their supervisory positions and demoted themselves because **it was very stressful for them to be just 'babysitters' and 'puppets' of managers and directors.** When I realized this, I was happy not getting the promotion because I wouldn't have liked to work like a puppet. I was doing more important and interesting work than a supervisor's or manager's position, whose job was merely serving as a 'puppet' of higher authorities. It appeared to me that their supervisory role was really nothing more than acting like a babysitter and a puppet!

When our manager, Ivy, was just new in our office, she had mentioned that she worked in a totally different department that had nothing do with landlords and tenants' issues that we were dealing with in our branch. She also confessed that she didn't have much knowledge about the laws regarding landlords and tenants.

I used to wonder how they could do their managerial job if they knew so little about our act and procedures! But now it occurs to me that perhaps they didn't need to have much knowledge about the operation of our branch or the laws governing landlords and tenants if their job was only to work as a 'puppet' of higher authorities!

### **Handling the Grievance:**

I met with my shop steward, Judy and manager, Ivy, to discuss the grievance I had filed. My grievance file was nicely organized in a binder with tabs and indices including all the evidence, just the way I had presented it in the past. Supervisor Doby did not attend the meeting. I had no clue where she was, but the manager probably knew. During our meeting, manager Ivy did not read or look at my grievance. She put my file on a side and declared that the grievance was being denied. Manager Ivy was also acting like a puppet, just like my supervisor, following the orders of her superiors, without thinking on her own. Why should she open my grievance file if her instruction from her boss was to strictly deny the grievance? It appeared to me that the entire office was governed under the old army dictum: "You are not paid to think, you are paid to do what you are told to do!" After this, I took this grievance to the next level.

Was there any point in taking the grievance to the next level? The supervisor and the manager were acting under the direction of directors! So, I knew what the outcome likely would be! But I decided to follow all the steps required to file my grievance.

### **Previous Supervisor Back:**

After my supervisor Doby left, my previous supervisor, Lora, came back to work in our South Office. In a few days, she asked me to log into our phone lines while I was occupied with other file work. She stood close by to listen to my conversation. Soon, the phone rang, and I answered it. The lady on the line was very difficult to deal with. It was a very frustrating call. She saw me that I was getting frustrated. So, she asked me if there was anything wrong, but I did not elaborate on the details of the call. This lady, then, wrote a letter of complaint about me to my supervisor, Lora. Lora called me in her office and showed me the letter of complaint. She also reminded me of the day she had asked me if there was anything wrong when she was standing close-by me, while she had asked me to log into the phone lines. She told me that it is the same lady who wrote this letter. I read the letter and saw that, after a few lines, the writer was addressing my supervisor by her first name Lora. That seemed strange to me!

It was then obvious to me that the lady, who wrote that complaint letter, must have been her agent who posed as a client asking me all her tenancy questions in a manner that would frustrate me. It also sounded like she had pre-planned this call. And, therefore, she had asked me to log into the phone line while I was working with other files. I believe that the frustrating call was pre-planned and that's the reason why she was able to connect that the writer of the letter was the same person when she had just asked me to log into the phone lines.

### **Misuse of Supervisory Authority:**

There were some work-related emails going around among colleagues. One of my colleagues, Lue, who always kept his Bible on his desk, wrote a very rude and disrespectful email to me and copied it to other colleagues. In his completely disrespectful email, the part that made me very indignant was: "Your response that it is already on the board only serves to exacerbate the disenchantment some of us have for you."

This made me very indignant. So, I replied to him with a copy to my supervisor Lora: "Children of God neither respect the devil nor expect any respect from the devil."

Then, Lora asked me to see her with Lue. But, Lue was there for a couple of minutes and she let him go back to his desk. After then, she scolded me and sent me her report of our meeting. She made derogatory remarks about me in her report. In her various inappropriate and discourteous remarks, she added fuel to the fire by saying humiliating things against me. She wrote: "She looked at me and began with a tirade of childish nature, how everything had been Lue's fault and others' fault."

I filed a grievance of misuse of supervisory authority and gave it my shop steward, Judy, who then forwarded the file to the manager Ivy.

## **Union Shop Stewards:**

My shop steward Judy also worked under the same supervisor Doby and Lora in the same office. The shop stewards do represent co-workers, but they are often under the same managerial authority and often they feel obligated to please their managerial staff, too. So, they walk crookedly, having one 'leg' on the side of the colleague and other 'leg' on the side of the management. However, at the second stage of the grievance, I found another shop steward, Ally, from another office, but working for the same employer. That was good because there was very little chance that she would have any conflict of interest. Indeed, Ally was sincere and helpful.

If you have any problem with your superiors or the union and would like to pray, please join with me.

***Prayer: Dear Lord Jesus, I pray for my readers that when they have problems in their workplace with their superiors or union, you will help them to reconcile with one another in a peaceful way that is righteous in your sight. I pray for sincerity, honesty, integrity, forgiveness, mutual respect and harmony in all workplaces. We pray for Your will to be done in our workplaces. Amen!***

### **1 Peter 2:18-20 English Standard Version**

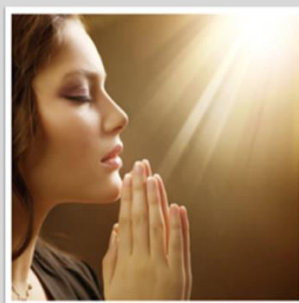
***18. Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust.***

***19. For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly.***

***20. For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God.***

### **Colossians 4:1 English Standard Version**

***Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.***



## CHAPTER 7

### THE POISONED WORKPLACE



**Poisoned Office:** ☹️ 😊

The union representative, Gordy, came from the head office to meet with my supervisor Lora, manager Ivy and shop steward Ally. Gordy did not allow me to take part in the meeting and I was very disappointed. ☹️ I was paying the union dues from my wages and it didn't seem fair to me that Gordy did not allow me in that meeting in which I had a part. After this, Ally explained to me that **Gordy told them: "If this grievance goes to arbitration and if the arbitrator determines that the whole office is poisoned, the arbitrator has the power to fire all the staff members, including managerial staff and directors; Brand new employees would have to be hired and the matter will be out of the hands of the union."** 😊

Wow! What a threat to all the colleagues, supervisors, managers and directors! 😊 Up to this point, I had called my office 'polluted'. The word 'poisoned' had never come to my mind. It was the first time ever I heard this word from the union. My union called it a '**poisoned office**'. I agreed that it was more suitable choice of words. Thanks to God for he has given us a promise.

#### **Mark 16: 18**

***They will be able to handle snakes with safety, and if they drink anything poisonous, it won't hurt them. They will be able to place their hands on the sick, and they will be healed.***

Thank you, Jesus! I need not worry about this poisonous office because you have given us promise that poison is not going to hurt us.

Now, manager Ivy worked sincerely on my grievance and asked Lora to make correction to her remarks about me. Lora told me with disappointment that I was suing her. More new vocabulary! I had only filed a grievance. It never occurred to me that I was suing her.

Working with the general public was just fine with me. Most people appreciated my work, with the exception of two incidents. Two ladies, whom I saw personally in the office and one lady who complained over the phone, as explained earlier. It is my logical thinking that these events happened because my employer tried to trick me by

manufacturing complaints from the people I served. Oh! My director Leanne sounded so smart to spread the insidious 'net' to capture me in her cage! Probably, they thought such harassment would make me quit my job. No, I am not a quitter!

However, working in that office was not easy. The atmosphere in the office was becoming worse day by day because of the mistreatment from my colleagues. God had forewarned me earlier:

**Luke 21: 17, 18**

**17. All men will hate you because of me. ☹**

**18. But not a hair of your head will perish. ☺**

The Scripture was being fulfilled. I took comfort in the second part that no matter how hard they try to harass me, they cannot do me any harm. That is the promise from God. Every single day, I read the Bible.

**Daniel 6: 10**

***When Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened towards Jerusalem. Three times a day, he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.***

I followed Daniel's example. Every morning before going to work, I knelt and prayed. I prayed during my coffee break. When I came home, I knelt and prayed before dinner. Before going to bed, I knelt and prayed because I was fighting a great battle! Every day, I recited Psalm 91 and that gave me strength to sustain me and perseverance to work in this poisoned office.

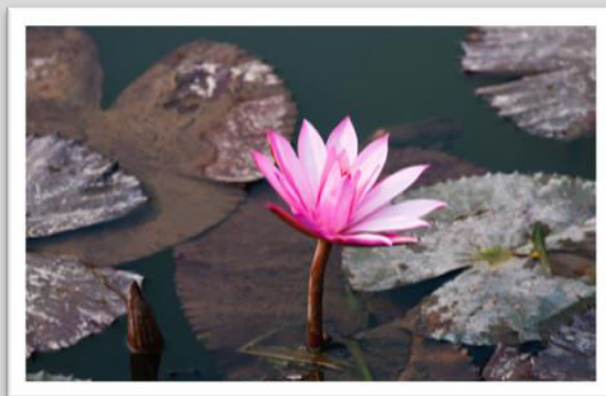
**Psalm 91: 1 to 16 ✚**

- 1. He who dwells in the shelter of the most high will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.**
- 2. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress. My God in whom will I trust.**
- 3. Surely, he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence.**
- 4. He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge;**
- 5. You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day,**

- 6. *Nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at noonday.***
- 7. *A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.***
- 8. *You will observe with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked.***
- 9. *If you make the most high as your dwelling even the Lord who is my refuge***
- 10. *Then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent.***
- 11. *For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways;***
- 12. *They will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.***
- 13. *You will tread upon the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent.***
- 14. *'Because he loves me,' says the Lord.***
- 15. *He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble. I will deliver him and honor him.***
- 16. *With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation."***

**Lotus:**

**Blooming Lotus in filthy waters of lake**



My father had taught me that we cannot help but live in a filthy world, but we must try to become like a lotus that draws only on the nutrients from the pond and blooms in a filthy pond and becomes a beautiful flower. Thank you, father; the memory of your teachings is like a refreshing breeze.

Likewise, my heavenly Father and my Lord Jesus taught me to bloom in a poisonous place surrounded by crafty snakes. Thank you, my Lord, for giving me strength to bloom in the midst of colleagues who acted like poisonous snakes with their continuous insults, harassment, and non-cooperation that was like venom. I praise your Holy name! Thank you, Lord, for the courage you gave me to bloom even in the midst of their venom. It is wonderful that their insults and harassment could not hurt me. (Mark 16:18)

### **The Fear, the Waves and the Winds, My Refuge:**

During this time, I had joined a sailing club with my husband. It was our new hobby, and we were both crazy about it. So, during the longer days of the summer months, we went sailing several days a week.

Often, I was scared when the big waves were approaching. It reminded me of how Jesus rebuked the wind and waves in Bible.

#### **Matthew 8: 23 to 26**

***23. Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him.***

***24. Without warning, a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping.***

***25. The disciples went and woke him, saying, “Lord, save us! We are going to drown.”***

***26. He replied, “**You of little faith, why are you so afraid?**” Then he got up and rebuked the waves, and it was completely calm.***



So, when we were sailing, sometimes I was afraid. In faith, I commanded the waves and the wind to calm down in the name of Jesus. And it worked. Praise the name of Jesus!

Our time sailing, paying attention to the winds and waves, helped me to take my mind of my office, supervisors, managers, colleagues and everything about my work. When we came back to the shore, I realized how wonderful it was **not to think** about the office even for a few hours. It was like a short vacation for my mind - from unwanted and unpleasant thoughts of the office - and it was very peaceful. It gave me the energy to face the battlefield of my office again the next workday.

I had learned a new lesson. The mental stress of the work environment can easily be healed by engaging in a risky activity that prompted my faith into action. It was very therapeutic to my mental health. The oxygen on the waters and the fresh air helped me to sleep well to bravely face the poisonous office again the next day.

Everyday there was a lot of stress at work due to the behavior of my colleagues. Despite all the stress, I was able to sleep well almost every night because God helped me to sleep in His peace.

### **God`s Prescription for Sleep: ☺**

#### ***Psalm 23: 1 to 6***

- 1. The Lord is my shepherd. I shall lack nothing.***
- 2. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me besides the quiet waters,***
- 3. He restores my soul. He guides me in the paths of righteousness for his name`s sake.***
- 4. Even though I walk through the valley of shadow of death I will fear no evil, for you are with me. Your rod and your staff they comfort me.***
- 5. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.***
- 6. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life. And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.***

### **God`s Gift of Sleep to his Beloved ☺**

#### ***Psalm 4: 8***

***I will lie down and sleep in peace for you alone O Lord, make me dwell in safety.***

#### ***Psalm 127:2***

***In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat, for he grants sleep to those he loves.***

## Peace in the midst of turmoil: ☺

I thank my God who gave me peace in the midst of the worst circumstances. Because of my God, I was able to carry out my duties well to the satisfaction of the public that our office served.

## If I had not known Jesus:

If I did not know Jesus, it would have been very difficult for me to continue to work there. Probably, I would have quit my job and then maybe:

- ( 1 ) looked for another job, or
- ( 2 ) looked to get into my own business, or
- ( 3 ) become discouraged to find other employment and applied for welfare, ☹ or
- ( 4 ) I would have taken anti-depressant, sleeping pills, alcohol, or drugs, ☹ ☹ or
- ( 5 ) **I might have done something crazy, such as hurt my colleagues, or shot them or destroyed the office and the people!** ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹

I thank my Lord that I never thought about hurting or killing anybody in my office because of my **maturity in Christian faith!** One of the close members of my family told me that I don't have a gun and how would I have shot my colleagues? However, **when there is a will, there is a way!** If, I wanted to kill them, probably, I could have found ways! Because of my relationship with the Lord Jesus, I was mentally stable. I had the peace of the Holy Spirit and therefore, I was not impulsive. I would read the scripture and pray and did not act without the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

I thank God because I never thought of causing destruction to my colleagues or office, because **His Word has been light unto my path. Psalm 119: 105**

I didn't have to take alcohol or anti-depressant drugs or sleeping pills. Instead, I worshiped the Lord, read scripture and prayed. I played a worship CD while driving and while going to sleep. As a result, **peace of God was all over me. Isaiah 26:3**

Instead of taking revenge or indulging in revengeful thoughts, the peace of God led me to **reading Scripture, praying and worshipping the Lord, again and again, which gave me greater degree of peace, comfort, wisdom, direction and restful sleep.**

## Mass Shootings in North America: ☹

We hear so frequently in the news about so many tragedies: ( a ) some students who unexpectedly shot classmates and teachers, and then committed suicide; ( b ) some employee who unexpectedly shot some colleagues, superiors, employer and many disgruntled people have then shot themselves. We hear these types of news of mass shooting very frequently in North America! Do we wonder why?

People wonder why somebody would come and kill some innocent people! The shooter has often been looked down on as crazy, guilty or mentally ill. The victims have been looked upon as innocent. Unfortunately, in most cases the shooter has committed suicide or has been shot by the police. The shooter is no more alive to tell his or her side of the story why he or she acted so destructively.

If the shooter didn't commit suicide or if the police didn't kill the shooter, we would probably be able to hear the shooter's side before making a judgement.

It makes me wonder that it is possible that the shooter had been so badly harassed by the victims and that may have caused him or her to turn to violence! Probably the shooter's life had been made so miserable by those victims that the shooter felt like he/she had nothing to live for, so would take the 'shelter' of suicide rather than go to jail. Sadly, to the best of my knowledge, provocation is not considered crime or a defense for a crime.

I wish every shooter had known Jesus. I wish every shooter had had a strong prayer life and had a strong relationship with the Lord. Then, he or she wouldn't have been a shooter. He or she probably would have found a different way. He or she would have been comforted by Jesus and the Holy Spirit of God, just as I was. In this entire ordeal of harassment at my work, I never thought about hurting or killing any person or damaging the office. I was never out of control. Most of the time, I demonstrated peace. Having peace of mind, I prayed for them. Occasionally, I was upset, sad, or tearful, but it was all temporary. Spirit of God took hold of me within a short time, and I had control over my mental state. I was able to carry on with all the necessary legal steps required to resolve the problems in front of me.

I wish the people of North America, specifically those surrounding the shooter, would have been more respectful and considerate towards the shooter. Then, that person wouldn't have done what he or she did.

(The following is my opinion based on my experience.)

Unfortunately, in BC, outward politeness appears to be just for a show and to look good. In the business world, people are extreme polite because they want to sell their product or services. I have seen people who can immediately change their tone of voice depending upon with whom they are talking. If they find people of interest to them, they are extremely polite and when they find people they don't care about, they can be extremely rude. There seems to be hardly any true respect or appreciation from their hearts towards people. There is also a lot of jealousy in our society. Often, some people are willing to do any kind of horrible actions to quench the agony of their jealousy. Jealousy can drive them to make every effort to hinder the abilities of the innocent and talented. In addition, this kind of poisonous jealousy is so widespread that people gang up together against a single individual to ostracize, harass, and bully in an effort to get rid of that person. If anybody is performing well in any task, people should take notice and learn something instead of looking down on that person as a threat.

Some people have an attitude to unite with other people to gang up and harass to bring misery to that person who appears to be better and maybe a threat to their position.

**Uncooperative Manager:** ☹ (going back to my personal story)

In the year of Y2K (2000), during the last couple of weeks before Christmas, the general public kept calling us to find out whether or not our office would be open all day long on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. Often, many offices closed early on those days. Several times, I sent emails to my manager, Ivy, inquiring about this but she did not respond to me, and our supervisor was away during those days. We had no powers to close the office early on our own unless there was permission from the management. When the general public called to inquire about this, I responded to them that we were open as usual.

**Peak of Harassment:** ☹ ☹ ☹ **Worst Day of my Life** ☹ ☹ ☹

After Christmas, my colleagues started to harass me more than ever before. Our supervisor was away and the manager was working from another office during Christmas. Our manager was also on holiday on New Year's Eve. On the evening of Y2K, harassment from my colleagues reached its peak. I was unable to give proper service to the general public because of their harassment towards me.

Josy's duties were to schedule the hearings and prepare documents for the clients to serve to the other party. I took an application for arbitration from a client at 1:30 and told the client to pick up the documents at 3:30 because it was written on the board that the documents will be ready in two hours. Josy got angry at me and told me that they are closing the office at 3 pm. I had not received any instruction from Ivy, the manager of our branch, that we were closing the office earlier on that day. Josy ordered me to call the client to come after the long weekend, but I did not take her order. She complained that she had to babysit me all the time. I told her that some clients were picking up their documents at 4:25, just before the closing time. She got angry with me again and repeated her accusation.

Eventually, my colleagues locked the office entrance earlier than 4 pm so that clients could not come in. They wanted to go home early. Now that there were no people to serve in person, I went back to my desk to do other duties. Josy ordered me: "You stay till 4:30. You are not leaving earlier." Josy was not my boss, and she had no right to talk to me like that. Yet, I told her: "That's fine with me. I am paid till 4:30 and I will stay." Again, they accused that they were tired of babysitting me. Josy, Marina, Cathy and other colleagues had told me numerous times on that day that they had to babysit me.

When I was at my desk, Josy came into my cubicle and ordered me to turn off my computer. She asked me if I knew how to enter the security code because she had to babysit me all the time. Josy was neither my boss nor had she been given authority to act like one.

It did not occur to me at that time, but now I think she purposely tried to provoke me to commit an offence so that they could capture the evidence on the camera that was installed just a few weeks ago, above my cubicle. She had no reason to come into my cubicle and she had never come before.

### **Upset, Indignant and Humorous:**

I was upset because **we were giving rotten service to the general public that we served.**

- a) Giving them run-around to pick up their documents because of non-cooperation from my colleagues;
- b) Telling the general public that we are open until 4:30 pm but then locking the office door before 4 pm.
- c) Manager Ivy never informed me of any early office closer so I couldn't provide the correct information to the general public.
- d) It is my understanding that a government office should not be closed earlier than normal hours without giving sufficient prior notice at large to the general public, such as in the newspapers, TV and on Internet, etc. where people of the province can see it ahead of time. It is my opinion that a government has the obligation to the people of the Province to keep the office open as usual without prior notification.

I was sad and indignant because:

- 1) Josy and Marina refused to prepare the documents and gave the run-around to the clients.**
- 2) They refused to give service to people and did their own personal computer work.
- 3) They refused to co-operate with me and were rude towards me.
- 4) They all insulted me continually. Josy insulted me the most.
- 5) They blamed me verbally and with gestures because I was allowing the general public to come into our office to give them service.
- 6) They complained that because of me they were not able to go home earlier.
- 7) They locked the door earlier and I was concerned that clients will be disappointed and angry when they can't pick up their documents.**
- 8) In addition to the disappointment of our clients, it is my understanding that our office may be held legally liable for any loss incurred by the clients as a result of early closer.**

Working for over seventeen years in this employment, this was the only year when our office had closed earlier than 4:30 pm regardless of whether it was Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve. Few people had been allowed to go early according to their choice and permission given by the employer, either on Christmas Eve or on New Year's Eve but not both. **However, the office always remained open till the end.** A couple of people had to remain in the office till the last minute.

Along with humiliation, indignation and sadness, I experienced some humor. So, I decided to tell Josy that I don't know how to enter the security code. (I had thought to myself, 'I am a baby. So, pick me up'.) But, she didn't. Maybe, she couldn't.

Marina, Cathy and Josy all left early so that I was the last one there. Then, I entered the security code and closed the office. When I got outside, they were still there waiting for me. Then, they remembered that they had forgotten to call Ivy. So, they went back in and reached the phone to call Ivy and the alarm sounded, because they had not disarmed the alarm. I guess, in a hurry to make the call, they forgot to disarm. I left for home because they were the ones who entered in and I wasn't responsible for the alarm.

### **Security Camera:**

Just about a few weeks before this incident, our employer had installed a security camera above my cubicle. They told us that the camera was to capture any incidence of violence. It was meant for our protection. However, they did not install any security camera in the reception area where we talked to the general public every day.

**Now, I understand and I reasonably believe that they had installed the security camera to trap me in the act of committing a crime! It sounds like they had pre-planned to provoke me to anger so that I might physically attack my colleagues and they would capture that on camera, so that they can bring charges against me, in order to possibly convict me of an offence and get me fired! Josy had never come into my cubicle before! Now I understand that she came there to provoke me to commit an offence that would be captured on camera! But I didn't.**

### **Accusations:**

After the long weekend in the New Year, manager Ivy asked me to see her in the main office. She accused me of 'assaulting Josy and gave me a disciplinary lecture. I denied the allegations and I asked her to show me the film in the video camera. **Her lame excuse was that the camera was not working!**

### **Camera – Not Working!**

I wonder why she did not ensure to keep it in working order! I believe it should have been her responsibility to ensure that all the security measures they had taken were in proper working condition! **It is my logical understanding that it is likely that she lied to me about 'camera not working' as she could not find any proof in the film about me committing any crime.**

### **Perjury and Suspension without Pay: ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹**

Ivy firmly said that she had the statements from the witnesses, Marina, Cathy and Josy, the accusers. She asked me to work in the main office. But in a few days, she suspended me without pay for an indefinite time. This made me very depressed. ☹

## 2 Corinthians 4: 8 to 11

8. *We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed.*
9. *Persecuted but not abandoned, struck down but not destroyed;*
10. *We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.*
11. *For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may be revealed in our mortal body.*

Consequences of a Poisoned Office: ☺ *Thank you Lord, for the retroactive pay!*

I filed grievance for my suspension without pay. About a couple of months after my suspension without pay, manager Ivy called me to see her. She was informed by the union that if she suspended me without pay for more than eleven days, the grievance would go directly to arbitration. ☺ Meaning, union will have 'no say' in it. If the arbitrator determined that whole office was poisoned, the arbitrator had the **power to fire the entire office, including all the managerial staff and directors, and bring in entirely new staff**. She had discussed this with the directors and they were all worried. They didn't want to get fired. So, she called me back to work with **retroactive pay!** ☺ **Wow! I got paid for all these days I didn't work.** Then, she transferred me to the office in the west. ☺

### “Poisoned”:

I had considered that my office was polluted. However, the word 'poisoned', never came to my mind. The **union called it a 'poisoned' office**. I agree that it was a better choice of words. My superiors and the people I worked with were like venomous snakes who kept trying to bite me with their insults, non-co-operation, humiliation, rudeness, harassment, disrespect, fault-finding, lies and threats, but all in vain.

### Working in a Poisoned Office:

Despite all of this, I had the peace of mind because God's Holy presence was always all around me and I was not afraid or depressed. There were a few drizzles or brief showers of sadness sometimes, but they evaporated quickly with God's peace, comfort and wisdom and vitality to enable me to proceed to the next step. God's peace gave me patience to tackle my problem later when I had more time because in the office, I had to take care of my clients' problems. God's peace gave me confidence that everything will be alright. God's peace gave me the ability to concentrate on the work in front of me, that is, to continue to serve the clients in the office with excellence. At the end of the day, when I drove home, I worshipped the Lord with joy, while driving. When I worshipped, I did not think about my supervisors, managers or colleagues. I just thought about God who is powerful and majestic and kind and loving. When I worshipped the Lord, I was confident that He is going to get me out of all these troubles and give me victory because of His mighty power and love for me. When God's amazing peace, joy and love surrounds us, we can live above all the filth and poison of this world which cannot pollute us or poison us. We can bloom like a beautiful flower

even in the filth and poison of our surroundings. **This is the effect of God's power like a peaceful, quiet and gentle breeze that refreshes our minds and gives us clear thinking.** His power enables us to plan a strategy to combat the problem with courage and clear direction and gives us peace, patience, and wisdom to balance between urgent and important matters.

(Serving clients' needs was urgent in the office. Responding to supervisor's accusations in writing was not urgent but very important. I could do it after work. )

If you have problems working in an undesirable workplace atmosphere and if you need prayer, please join with me.

**Prayer:**

***Father God, I come to you in the mighty name of Jesus our Lord and Savior and by the authority of his precious blood. Father, I pray for my readers that you will protect them if they have to work in polluted or poisonous workplace environments. Give them strength to deal with the issues and peace of mind to function well in the office. I pray for victory for righteous employees and righteous employers. I pray for peace between employer and employees. I pray for peace among colleagues. I pray for justice in the workplaces. I pray that you will remove all the pollution and poison from workplaces and bring safety, peace and harmony in all workplaces. Amen!***

**1 Peter 2: 18 to 20**

***<sup>18</sup> Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust.***

***<sup>19</sup> For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly.***

***<sup>20</sup> For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God.***

**Colossians 3:23**

***Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men.***

**Colossians 4:1**

***Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a master in heaven.***

## CHAPTER 8

### GOD'S PROVISION

After the false witnesses, false complaints and harassment in the south office, they transferred me to their office in the west. It was okay for me to work here. Supervisor Ruby and manager Hairy were okay to work with. My colleagues were alright with me, too.

Although I was called back to work, I felt the need to prepare myself for financial resources, in case something happened. I was concerned that any financial institute would like to look into my employment stability and, at a time like this, having a lot of problems at work, how would my employer back me up to give good reports about my job situation! I prayed and then, I went for financial help.

***Answer to Prayer: God answered my prayers. The financial institute had called the personnel department and they responded that everything was fine with my employment. I was surprised because Stephy, the personnel officer, was not at all cooperative with me during my grievance meeting. Thank you, Jesus, that I was able to arrange for protection of my finances for any future needs.***

***Joshua 1:9***

***.....do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.***

***Proverbs: 3: 25, 26***

***25. Have no fear of sudden disaster or the ruin that overtakes the wicked,  
26. for the Lord will be your confidence and keep your foot from being snared.***

Although money was created by man, God still provides our financial needs. Here is how Jesus provided the money.

***Matthew 17: 24 to 27***

***24. After Jesus and his disciples arrived in Capernaum, the collectors of two drachama tax came to Peter and asked, "Doesn't your teacher pay the temple tax?"***

***25. "Yes, he does," he replied.***

***When Peter came into house, Jesus was the first to speak. "What do you think, Simon?" he asked. "From whom do you think the kings of the earth collect duty and taxes - from their own sons or from others?"***

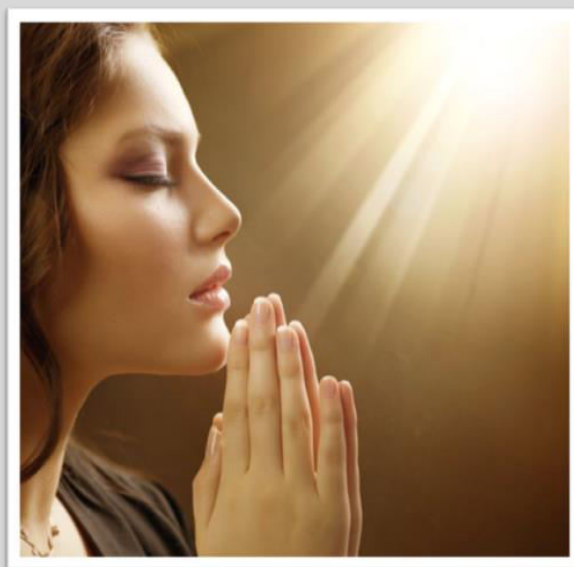
26. ***“From others”, Peter answered. “Then, the sons are exempt.” Jesus said to him.***

27. ***“But so that we may not offend others, go to the lake and throw out your line. Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a four drachma coin. Take it and give to them for my tax and yours.”***

Although God did not create money, he provides money. Just as Jesus provided the temple tax, he provided me with my financial needs in advance. Now, I felt secure. I could afford a lawyer if I needed one in the future.

If you come across some situation with unexpected financial needs and you need money and if you would like to pray, please join with me in prayer.

***Prayer: Father God, we come to you in the mighty name of Jesus our Lord and our Savior and by the authority of his precious blood. Father, I pray for my readers that you will supply their financial needs in your love.***



***Peace be with you.***

**My Favorite Scripture:**

***Philippines 4: 19 New Living Translations***

***And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from His glorious riches which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.***

## CHAPTER 9

### THE ASSAULT CHARGES

**Summons:** ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹

In west office, supervisor Ruby asked me about my choice of vacation days. I wondered why she had the urgency for my vacation plan. I had just got back to work after my suspension and wasn't thinking about taking a vacation. However, I ended up scheduling the days of my vacation. We made plans to go away from home. Then, I received a summons to appear in court exactly on my vacation day. Josy had filed assault charges against me.

My colleague, Suvy was a good friend of Josy. Suvy had worked in the crown counsel's office prior to working for our office. Her husband was a policeman. I was wondering if there was any connection that she may have arranged this summons to be on my vacation day. I was wondering why Josy had waited for several months to bring charges against me. I was wondering if they had planned it in such a way that my court appearance would be during my vacation days. It appeared to me that they wanted to spoil my holidays. Also, they wouldn't have to pay my salary during my court appearance according to our union contract, since my court appearance was during my vacation day! For me, it was just a guessing game. I prayed that God would arrange for the right timing and I would still be able to go away for my vacation. I called the court to see if I could appear earlier. The court was co-operative. Thank you, Jesus!

I went to the court trusting, worshiping and rejoicing in my Lord. They took my picture and fingerprints, treating me like a criminal, but that didn't seem to bother me because the peace of God was all over me. God's peace kept me joyful.

I was able to go on my vacation as planned. **Thank you, Jesus for answering my prayers.**

**Scary Future:** ☹

Although I was able to go on my vacation as planned, I felt a big heavy burden on my chest during my entire vacation. I had some fears as I knew nothing about criminal law and the court system. I had many questions. Confusion and fear clouded my mind. When I returned from my vacation, I met with our union. The union couldn't do anything for me because Josy had gone to the crown counsel, now the matter was out of their hands. ☹

**Luke 21: 12** ☹

***.....They will lay hands on you and persecute you. They will deliver you to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before the kings and governors, and all on account of my name.***



**35. or by earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King.**

**36. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black.**

**37. Simply let your 'yes' be yes and let your 'no' be no; anything else comes from the evil one.**

I was praying about it, seeking God's guidance how to handle this issue. God told me in my prayer that I will not have to say a single word in the court. Wow! God knew it all in advance.

***Prayer: It is my prayer today that the court will stop asking people to take oath on the Bible because it is contrary to God's Word.***

#### **My Prayer for the Court:**

Before the court hearing, I knelt and prayed. My pleading to God was based on the following Scriptures.

**Luke 19: 45, 46**    †

**45. Then he entered temple area and began driving out those who were selling.**

**46. "It is written," he said to them, "My house will be a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of robbers."**

On the grounds of the above Scriptures, I pleaded to the Lord to send his holy angels with 'whips' and drive out from the court, all the unjust judges, Crown counsels and all unjust staff members. I prayed that **God will make this court a house of true justice.**

**Disappointment with my Lawyer:** ☹ *Hey lawyer I didn't hire you to sign a peace bond!*

On my first court date, lawyer Jo had arrived prior to me. He was astonished that the many staff members in the court were changed. I believed God had answered my prayer.

However, there was still a problem with the crown counsel. My lawyer had met with the crown counsel before he met me in the court. Now, when I arrived in the court, first he asked me to sign a peace bond. ☹ I had told him the first time I met him in his office that I was not going to sign the peace bond under any circumstances. I had told him that I was innocent, and that I had not assaulted Josy. He had agreed then but now in the court he threatened me that if I didn't sign the peace bond, he would not represent me. His argument was that if I didn't sign the peace bond, we were going to lose the

case because Josy had brought witnesses. I had already informed him ahead of time that those witness statements were perjuries. Wow! If I were to sign the peace bond, I could have done it myself and I didn't need the lawyer. Now, that he told me at the last minute in the court, I asked myself what I should do. I prayed that the hearing would be adjourned as I didn't want this coward lawyer to represent me anymore. Well, God answered my prayer. The hearing was adjourned. What a waste of my money! That hurts.

### **Review of Lawyer's Bill:**

I took away all my files from this lawyer's office and applied for the review of his bill on the grounds of his threat to me that he would withdraw if I didn't sign the peace bond; whereas it was agreed upon, right from the beginning, that I was not going to sign the peace bond. There were a few other grounds upon which to reduce his bill.

The master in the registrar's office wanted us to work out between us and if that didn't work, then, he would reduce the bill. I thought, I had presented all the facts in writing to the judge and he would make a wise decision. It came as an unexpected surprise to me that he would ask us to work it out and for some reason I wasn't firm enough to ask for a bigger amount to be reduced. So, it was just a small victory and he refunded me that portion of the fees that he had agreed. I was not too happy about it because I had paid more than he deserved.

### **Easy Earning:**

After this, I talked to several lawyers who gave me same advice on which I didn't agree. I understood that lawyers like to do simple jobs such as signing a peace bond and charging high fees. This is easy earning for them without having to use their brains!

### **Trouble with my Second Lawyer and the Crown Counsel: ☹**

Finally, I found a lawyer in the west side. I explained to him my whole work history in a nutshell. I gave him all my grievance files in case he wanted more details. This lawyer (Larry) told me that he would not meet with the crown counsel, ☺ and he would not ask me to sign a peace bond. ☺ I hired him, although it was a long way for me to drive and I had to pay for parking, each time I visited him. ☹

On my second hearing date, the crown counsel forgot all his papers at home and asked for an adjournment. I had to pay to my lawyer for his time to come to the court. ☹ I talked to my lawyer to sue the crown counsel and have him pay for my lawyer's fees. My lawyer didn't agree with me. ☹ I was too tired and exhausted to sue him myself. ☹ In my opinion, I think, there should be some provision in the law to make the crown counsel pay the lawyer's fee for the defendant, if he makes a mistake. But unfortunately, there is no such law to ease the burden on the accused. ☹

## **Secret Meeting between my Lawyer and Crown Counsel: ☹ ☹ ☹**

On the next hearing date, the crown counsel asked my lawyer to meet with him. Though, I expressed my desire to go with them, my own lawyer did not allow me to take part in the meeting between them. ☹ Their meeting gave me a pain in my chest. ☹ The law should prohibit lawyers to meet with the lawyers of the opposite side in the absence and without the consent of their client. I was not cynical, but as a result of the way my lawyer asked questions to the witnesses ☹ and according to what I read in the transcript, ☹ plus his cooperation in meeting with the crown counsel in my absence, I became more vigilant. It appeared to me that he was not trying to win my case. ☹ Again, he had nothing to lose because his fees were on the basis of the hours he spent on my file. His fees were not on the basis of whether he won or lost. ☹ Thus, there was no incentive for him to win!

**It is my opinion that the law should require that a lawyer should not be allowed to have a meeting with the lawyer of the opposite party in the absence of his client.**

The hearing was adjourned. That was good because I became very skeptical about my lawyer! Another financial loss! ☹ My lawyer's decision to agree with the crown counsel to meet with him in my absence was not at all acceptable to me! ☹ I became concerned about his integrity! ☹ Their behavior made me suspicious, thinking that the crown counsel might have been bribed by my employer because he insisted on seeing my lawyer in my absence! ☹ It made me skeptical that he may be trying to bribe my lawyer! Besides, my accuser Josy's friend Suvy, one of my colleagues in the South office, worked for the Crown Counsel's office prior to working in our office! Suvy's husband was a police officer! My employer had treated me so badly that it caused me to be vigilant and think that they may have bribed the crown counsel! The crown counsel's behavior caused me to be more suspicious to think that he could bribe my lawyer! My doubts were further strengthened because my lawyer asked a question to the perjuring witness that was not appropriate ☹ ☹ and I read in the transcript something else my lawyer said that was completely wrong! ☹ ☹ It caused me to be vigilant and wise in dealing with my lawyer! Again, the lawyer did not think that I would pay to get the transcript and he could easily get away with incorrect statements!

## **Dealing With My Lawyer:**

Then, I complained to Larry about what he said in the court according to the transcript. As I was paying for his time in the court, I insisted, I tag along with him in the court, explaining how it was inappropriate for him to keep me away from his meeting with the crown counsel! As I was paying to him for the entire day in the court, I insisted to stay with him all the time including lunch and coffee! Then, he agreed and did not meet with the crown counsel, in my absence.

The court hearings were being adjourned and I was incurring a tremendous amount of legal fees. Now I could not get any more stress leave, and I had to return to work.

### Lawyer's Genius Work:

*Thank you, Lawyer!*

Finally, Larry did something wonderful. He requested the release of all the documents in my name from my employer through the Freedom of Information.

**Fire:** ☹ ☹ ☹

After my lawyer requested all the information to be released through the Freedom of Information branch, a few days later, on a Friday, I returned home from the office and found that our whole apartment building was on fire. I met with my family, outside the building. We had **no home** to go in. **We had lost everything that we ever had.** ☹ During this time, all the families living in the apartment building became friendlier. We lived in the hotels together and socialized.

*Thank you, Lord! Socializing with neighbors was comforting during this calamity*



☹ **We lost everything that we ever had!** ☹

**God's Provision:** ☺

Our municipality and provincial government had made arrangement for us all to purchase from Walmart, merchandise of personal hygiene and clothes for \$200 per person on their account. Thanks to God, he provided our basic needs! They paid for our hotels and lodging for a few days until we could find a place to live. We stayed in lovely hotels with free food and a swimming pool at no cost! ☺ Praise God!

**Gift from the Office:**

The news about this fire, spread everywhere through television, newspaper, etc. Our manager Hairy and supervisor Ruby circulated a collection plate in the office. The colleagues contributed generously. Thank you, colleagues! My manager and supervisor sent a decent looking food basket gift at the hotel for me and kept the rest of the money from the collection, for other future occasions. I respect their decision!

## Kindness of People: ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺

We prayed. There were 47 families looking for a place to rent at the same time. Even in the midst of such competition, God helped us to find a beautiful place to rent! ☺ It was a small fully furnished one bedroom house of a duplex, with a big sunny balcony and a big basement! It was at a walking distance from my husband's office! The landlords did not charge us for a few days left in February and gave us a first month of March rent free ☺ and no deposit ☺ because we were the fire survivors! A friend gave us a TV, another friend gave us a stereo, another friend gave me some Indian clothes, one colleague gave me a bike and another colleague gave me a desk and a filing cabinet! One of my husband's client drove his van to pick up big and heavy items! ☺ Thank you Preston, your help is greatly appreciated! You are a true friend in need. Friends invited us for dinner. ☺ People in our home church made a financial contribution to our family! ☺ They gave us a very decent amount to help us out! Friends at the church brought many clothes and personal items to the church for us to pick up whatever we needed. I am very thankful towards my home church. Several other organizations also gave us donation in cash and brought useful items in display for us to pick up. Canadian Tire and Superstore gave us coupons for free merchandise. ☺ Our relatives in India offered to send money but we were not in need. Thank you Jesus, for good Christians, good relatives, Samaritans, colleagues, friends and kind businesses! It is my prayer that God will bless our landlords and all the people who helped us during our difficult times! Here are a few scriptures about God's provision.

### **Matthew 6: 8**

***.....Your Father knows what you need before you ask him.***

### **Matthew 6: 31, 32**

***31. So, do not worry, saying: what shall we eat? Or, what shall we drink? Or, what shall we wear?***

***32. For the pagans run after all these things, and your Heavenly Father knows you need them.***

### **Matthew 7: 11**

***If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more your heavenly Father will give good gifts to those who ask him!***

## ***Ephesians 3:20***

***Now to whom who is able to do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.***

### **Good Samaritans Everywhere: ☺**

Meanwhile, the news about the fire spread throughout the province and many 'good Samaritans' sent money to our co-operative society to help the fire survivors. A few other churches and organizations also sent money for the fire survivors. Our co-operative had to open a special bank account for the fire survivors. These monies were distributed among 47 families and each family received a lump sum of several hundred dollars. ☺ Some members of our church donated cash to meet our needs during these difficult times. ☺ Pastor Dan from our home church also asked my husband to handle the accounting of the church for a fee. ☺ He was just trying to help us earn some extra money in this time of our financial crisis. However, my husband was already too busy, so he couldn't take extra work. I thank my church for their intention to help us earn more money. Walmart had a basement that they had not started using yet. So, they advertised for people to bring in items to give out to the fire survivors. There were living room furniture, bedroom furniture, dining room furniture, kitchen equipment, utensils, dinner sets, tea sets, coffee mugs, pots & pans, clothes for men, women and children, shoes, umbrellas, sporting goods, cosmetics, sewing accessories, winter coats, suitcases, sports equipment, bedsheets, pillow covers, mattresses, etc. Sleep Country Canada gave brand new mattresses and pillows. Some motels were closing their businesses and so they gave a lot of cosmetics, shampoos, soaps, hand creams, etc. The list seems endless. We went to Walmart day after day and picked up whatever we needed, with no cashier line-ups. We took what we needed and went home. If items we took were not suitable, we brought them back. Walmart kept the basement space open for several weeks, to give us enough time to pick up whatever we needed. A Holiday-Inn hotel gave us an extra, few days to stay there for free, affording us extra time to look for a place to live. ☺

### **Freedom of Information:**

When we were living in our new home, **I received a letter from FOI that they received the letter from my lawyer on February the 12<sup>th</sup>. The fire that destroyed our apartment building happened on Friday, February the 16<sup>th</sup>.** It made me suspicious if there was any connection between the FOI request and the fire of our apartment building! Maybe, someone purposely caused the fire to make me poor so that I would not afford the legal fees and give up defending myself – so that I would give up hiring a lawyer! Or, so that I would give up and submit to the cheap way of signing a peace bond and remain guilty! I don't have all the facts and I cannot prove anything. I leave this matter in the hands of God! God is just and righteous! He will avenge my

enemies. Thank you, Jesus! The Lord looked after us more than we can think or imagine.

I also wondered why the fire happened on a Friday that I would find out only after returning from work! Our union contract provides for one paid day for household emergency if it happened on a working day. But they didn't have to pay if it happened Friday night. I wonder if there was any intention that I wouldn't get a paid day off for this household emergency! However, I was able to win the argument to get one paid day off for the next Monday. Thank you, Lord!

There were a few parties (other than my employer) who were held responsible for the fire. Our good insurance company gave us the money for all the damages very quickly. They then, sued several parties for negligence and for causing fire (other than my employer). The case was then settled by mediation. The insurance company recovered all the money they had paid out to the 47 families, and we were all reimbursed additional money for a portion of the damages that we had suffered over and above the insurance settlement.

In a few months, we moved into a new home with an indoor swimming pool and a sauna. God had really blessed us. Thank you, Jesus! ☺



*God is our provider. He gives us the desire of our heart!*

Jesus said:

**John 10:10**

***The thief comes only to steal, kill and destroy; I have come so that they may have life, and have it to the full.***

**Philippians 4:19**

***And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.***

### **Jeremiah 29:11**

***“For I know the plans that I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and future.”***

For many years that we lived here, we always had the use of the swimming pool. Now, in this new home, we had the use of sauna also in addition to the year round swimming pool. Thank you, Jesus!

### **Ephesian 3: 20**

***Now to whom who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.***

#### **Non-Co-operation of Employer:**

The employer did not co-operate well with FOI's request. They took exceptionally long time to release the information. Just one day before the court date, they sent a bundle of thousands of papers to my lawyer's office. My lawyer showed the big bundle to the judge and asked for an adjournment. Manager Ivy asked the judge not to grant an adjournment with a gesture. However, the judge was reasonable and granted an adjournment. ☺ Although an adjournment was necessary, it was a waste of my money to pay to the lawyer just to come to the court. ☹

It is my opinion that the law should require the non-co-operating party to pay the expenses of the accused. The current legal system makes the accused very poor. The resulting financial burden causes many innocent people to be forced into signing a peace bond! ☹

#### **Dealing with FOI:**

Although it looked like a big bundle, my employer did not release all the information. Some important documents were missing, while some useless documents were sent in duplicate. Many of the documents were incomplete. The employer was totally non-co-operative, but FOI was very co-operative.

#### **Dealing with Lawyers:**

According to my experience, often, lawyers are not very easy to deal with. Most of the time, I had a tough time getting along with the lawyers. When I was young, my father told me a few things about lawyers.

My father had advised me: never to marry a lawyer, never to rent to a lawyer, never to rent from a lawyer and never to do any business with a lawyer.

I have heard something about the lawyers. “A lawyer is like a sperm! A lawyer has a one in a million chance of becoming a human being!” I didn’t like the way my lawyer was charging me.

I am writing this from my own personal experience. It may not apply to all the lawyers. The frustrating thing about a lawyer is that if a client writes him a letter that his bill is inappropriate, then, the lawyer will send another bill to the client to read the letter of client’s concern. If a client talks to him about the legitimacy of his bill, then he will send another bill for talking to him. It just goes in circle. A lawyer can deprive the client’s right to discuss his/her case. Even if a client calls him to make an appointment, some lawyers will charge the client for looking up into their appointment books to set the time. If a lawyer offers a cup of coffee, his meter is still running to bring you a cup of coffee at a professional rate, and not a rate of a taxi driver. If he makes photocopies of your documents, his time to make copies is already charged on your bill at the professional rate, plus, he charges you extra for copies at double the market rate. I wish my lawyer’s secretary would have taken care of a lot of things. I made sure I had all the copies for my lawyer and not to accept his hospitality. It would be stupid of me to ask any polite or sociable questions like: How are you? How is your family? Or anything else! It would be wise not to treat lawyers like human beings! I would be paying for his time if I were to admire him for his beautiful office or his lovely children in the picture on his desk! The lawyer’s meter is running as soon as you enter his office.

I was in a vicious battle. I had to defend my case while I was still working with my accusers and people who supported my accusers. In addition, I was in constant arguments with my lawyer for the way he was charging me at a professional rate for petty manual work that could have been done by his secretary. In addition, my lawyer was not an eloquent speaker and I was not happy with his presentation. So, I prayed. I brought this matter before the Lord. But I sensed that the Lord wanted me to keep the same lawyer!

My heart pounded when I saw his mail. Normally, his mail should give me thrill and joy because he was representing me and I should be happy to see the mail from someone who I think believes in me and presumably will protect me and defend me. But that was not the case in my situation. I was not thrilled to open his mail. There might be some unjustifiable stupid bills inside! But, Lord Jesus comforted me and guided me with the next course of action.

### **Cutting Down the Branch that you are Sitting On:**

As I prayed, the Lord told me to apply for the review of the lawyer’s bills. My mother had taught me ‘never to cut down the branch that you are sitting on’. But I had

to obey the Holy Spirit of God. If the Holy Spirit wants me to do it, He will empower me to do it right. So, finally, I applied for the review of my lawyers' bills at the Registrar's office.

***I am glad that I listened to the Holy Spirit. Thank you, Holy Spirit for giving me the courage to do this.***



***I am sorry, mother! Your instructions are always good!  
But this time I must obey the Holy Spirit.***

So, finally I applied for the review of my lawyer's bill. This time, the evidence that I gave to the Judge, I did not serve to my lawyer. I explained to the Judge that if I did serve him the evidence, he would send me another bill. However, the Judge adjourned the hearing for me to serve him the evidence. When I went to serve him the evidence, first he told me that he was withdrawing from representation. I was afraid that he might withdraw. I wasn't too sure how I was going to defend myself, but I trusted that the Lord would help me.

***Isaiah: 33:22***

***For the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our lawgiver; the Lord is our King, it is he who will save us.***

Then, we got into discussing a few other things and the lawyer changed his mind, we reconciled and came to an agreement about his fees, and I cancelled the registrar's hearing.

For a while, I thought if it was a waste of my time and money to apply for this review! Was I stupid to apply for a review? But I did it according to God's direction!

***Corinthians 1: 18 to 25***

***18. The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction. For we who are being saved know it is the very power of God.***

- 19. As the Scriptures say, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise and discard the intelligence of the intelligent.”**
- 20. So where does this leave the philosophers, the scholars and the world’s brilliant debaters? God has made the wisdom of the world look foolish.**
- 21. Since God in his wisdom saw to it that the world would never know him through human wisdom, he has used our foolish preaching to save those who believe.**
- 22. It is foolish to the Jews, who ask for signs from heaven. And it is foolish to the Greeks, who seek human wisdom.**
- 23. So when we preach that Christ was crucified, the Jews are offended and the Gentiles say it’s all nonsense.**
- 24. But to those called by God to salvation, both Jews and Gentiles, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God.**
- 25. This foolish plan of God is wiser than the wisest of human plans, and God’s weakness is stronger than greatest of human strength.**

**Crown Counsel Taking Advantage at my Expense:** ☹

Then, another bill came from my lawyer. I was very upset. The crown counsel had sent him some information and was asking my lawyer for some information. My lawyer had charged me for his time to communicate with the crown counsel.

I was upset and angry and so I went rushing to see my lawyer. I asked him, “Who are you working for?” I refused to pay the bill because I never authorized crown counsel to use my lawyer’s services!

Finally, we agreed that he would write a letter to the court stating that he no longer represented me, in order to stop the Crown Counsel from bothering him. That was good!

If you have problems with your lawyers and would like a prayer, please join with me.

***Prayer: Father God, we come to you in the mighty name of Jesus our Lord and our Savior and by the authority of his precious blood. Father, I pray for my readers, specifically for those who are having a difficult time with their lawyers that you will give them your divine wisdom how to communicate with their lawyers. Lord, I pray for their lawyers, that they will work with sincerity, integrity, intelligence and wisdom. I pray that you will help them to win their clients’ cases with righteousness, justice and wisdom. Amen!***



*Peace be with you!*

**My Favorite Scripture:**

***Psalm 18: 2, 3***

***2. The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my savior; my God is my rock, in whom I find protection. He is my shield, the power that protects me, and my place of safety. 3. I called on the Lord, who is worthy of praise; and he saved me from my enemies.***

## CHAPTER 10

### FINAL RELIEF – END OF COURT

Just a few days before the last court hearing, my lawyer sent documents to crown counsel under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Thank you lawyer!

**Last Court Date:** 😊

Finally, this new crown counsel withdrew the charges against me. Thank you, Jesus! Praise the name of Jesus! Because you freed me from all this running around! Thank you Lord for giving wisdom and integrity to my lawyer.

**Psalm 23: 4**

***Though I walk through the valley of shadow of death, I will fear no evil. Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.***



***Thank you, Lord for your justice!***

***Thank you lawyer, for your wisdom!***

**Luke 10: 19**

***Look, I have given you authority over all the power of enemy and you can walk among snakes and scorpions and crush them. Nothing will injure you.***

Oh! What a relief! A great burden had been lifted up from my shoulders! Now, I understood, why God had asked me to apply for the review of my lawyer's bill. It produced a fear in him that it may jeopardize his law practice if he lost the case. I think, lawyer was not sincere about winning my case. His fee schedule did not depend upon whether he won or lost my case. He did not have much incentive to win. After I applied for the review, he became more responsible and worked on my file with sincerity and determination! My application for a review of his bill, worked as a charm.

**Psalm 50: 6** *Thank you, Holy Spirit, for your instruction and wisdom to stay with the same lawyer.*

***And the heavens proclaim his righteousness, for God himself is judge.***

The whole legal battle lasted for a couple of years. The cost of this legal battle for me was almost a year's wages. If this brings awareness in society about bullying in the workplace, how to survive in a poisoned workplace and being vigilant with lawyers, I believe my sacrifice is worthwhile.

### **Change in the Law is Necessary:**

In my entire court ordeal, the accuser neither had to hire a lawyer nor had to pay anything to the court. They were not even required to attend all the hearings! So, it seems that people can get away with accusing and harassing innocent people for their personal gain! This does not sound fair. Accusers should be charged a fee to bring complaints to the police and the courts. It is unfair that they are not required to pay anything to bring charges against somebody nor are they required to prove their allegations! I am not trying to say that the poor people should not have justice. In LATB where I worked, poor people could apply for a fee waiver. But those who have decent earnings should have to pay fees to accuse people and lay charges against people instead of harassing people with accusations at no cost! I also believe that the accusers should be required to provide with proofs of allegations, such as: photographs, doctor's reports, X ray reports, etc. Accusers should not be allowed to charge without some minimum evidence. The law should require that the accuser provide a minimum number of evidence before charging anybody with criminal charges. I pray for establishing of just laws in the future.

### **After the Court Ordeal:**

After the entire court battle, I continued to work for LATB in the west office. After some time, the government had to close that office and we were transferred back to the main office.

### **God's Ways, Humorous Ways:**

Sherry, who had taken early retirement, came back to the main office with a promotion to the manager's position where Lora, my previous supervisor, worked. When I had filed a grievance against Lora, Sherry represented me as my shop steward and Lora was also her supervisor. While grievance procedures were going on, Lora had rescinded my temporary supervisory position and given it to Sherry. It appeared to me that she bribed her with a promotion. Sherry accepted the promotion despite the conflict of interest. But now Sherry was manager above Lora. God's ways are humorous! Now, Sherry was manager in the main office and now in a position above the position of Lora!

### ***Psalm 7: 15***

***15. He who digs a hole and scoops it out falls into the pit he has made.***

## God Removed my Enemies: ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺

The south office was closed but none of the staff members were transferred to main office because they were all gone!! ☺ Halleluia! Those who were harassing me to making me quit my job were gone! My trainer, Mary, who had started the harassment against me, probably because - I didn't give her any money for giving me a reference letter, - was gone a long time ago! ☺ Judy and Pravin, who were not openly rude, but mainly supporting the rest of the gang, were already gone some time ago for a sugar coated reason called 'early retirement'. My accuser Josy, who used to say that she was living paycheque to paycheque, was gone! Thank you, Jesus! ☺ Cathy and Marina, who gave perjury against me, were gone! Praise God! ☺ Lue, who sent me disrespectful emails, was gone a long time ago. ☺ God is good! Deny was very cruel to me but she had moved to an office in the interior long time ago, so I didn't have to see her face anymore! My supervisor, Lora, who gave me disciplinary letters, was gone under sugar coated name called, 'early retirement'! ☺ What a relief! My manager Ivy, who suspended me from work without pay, was gone also under sweet sugar coated name called, 'early retirement'! Of course, it is better to retire early than get fired! Wow! God works in mysterious ways! ☺ Fady was double minded and often sided with the rest of the gang, was gone from our office! Supervisor Doby who harassed me, made me feel as if she was sucking my blood was also gone long ago! ☺ Sneaky Suvy who tried to get the secrets out of me was gone! ☺ Sneaky director Leanna, who tried to get the secrets out of me, was not in our office anymore! ☺ Manager Kothy who denied my grievance was gone from our office! ☺ Many people who were younger than me left under sugar-coated name like: 'early retirement'! God had made my path clear and peaceful! Thank you, Jesus! Your works are marvelous!

So, all the people who had harassed me, thinking that I would quit my job because of their harassment, had to quit their jobs. Linda, who kept telling me that I needed to look for other work, left our office. She had to find another job. And I was still working peacefully for a long time in the main office after they were all gone.

### ***Psalm 7: 15, 16***

***15. He who digs a hole and scoops it out falls into the pit he has made.***

***16. The troubles he causes, recoils on him; his violence comes down on his own head.***

### ***Psalm: 55: 22***

***Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall.***



Now, I was able to work peacefully in the main branch. 😊 Barnice the new supervisor, Barbara, the new manager and Suzy, the new director, were reasonable and wise. God had given me peace to work there, and I was able to help people in need. The general public that we served showed confidence in me and that made my job worthwhile. Thank you, Jesus!

If my readers have problems working in a poisoned environment and if you would like to have victory over the poisoned workplace, please join with me in prayer.

**Prayer:**

***Father God, I come to you on behalf of my readers. I pray that if they have to continue working in a poisoned workplace, that you will give them wisdom, courage, and energy to face all their trials with endurance, bravery, confidence and faith in God. I pray that righteousness and justice will prevail, and they would have victory in Jesus' name.***



## CHAPTER 11

### FAVOR WITH EMPLOYER

#### My Husband's Sickness & Death:

My husband became sick while I was working for him in his office. He was in the hospital, on his deathbed, during the year of Expo, in 1986. My family doctor called me to tell me that he was likely to die if he had cancer. When I went to the hospital with sadness, my husband cheered me up. Although he looked like he would die, he told me that God had told him that he was going to live. He showed me this scripture:

***Psalm: 118: 17. 18***

***26. I will not die but live, and I will proclaim what the Lord has done.***

***27. The Lord has chastened me severely, but he has not given me over to death.***



*He looked like this when he was sick in hospital.*

*He recovered and became healthy and lived an active Life-style for over another two decades.*



God restored his health, and he enjoyed a very healthy lifestyle after the recovery. But now, after enjoying a very healthy and active lifestyle for over two decades, he was sick again. Pastor Jon, in our home church, came to see him every day in the hospital. He gave us true pastoral care. Thank you, Jon! Your pastoral care is greatly appreciated. Finally, my husband died. At work, my manager Barbara was very kind, understanding and cooperative with me when I was unable to go to work during his sickness and after his death. She sent me beautiful flowers. Flowers do not take away the sorrows, but it does show that someone cares.

I convey many thanks to my manager for her acts of kindness. I convey many thanks to all our relatives who came from India and Ontario to stay with us to support us in the time of our need. The people from church, our friends and his clients came to visit us. Pastor Jon came every day to see my husband in the hospital. I convey many thanks to Pastor Jon for his kind and compassionate pastoral care. Many thanks to Barbara for allowing me the stress leave that enabled me to recuperate.



*Thank you manager, supervisor and colleagues, for the beautiful flowers!*

### **Retirement:**

I continued to work there for a few more years until God directed me to retire. Director Suzy talked to me a day before my last day of work to convey her good wishes. On the last day in my office, my cubicle was nicely decorated with “happy retirement signs”. At the cake-cutting in the afternoon, manager Barbara gave me a beautiful silver chain, with my initial “J”, on behalf of the office. As a retirement gift, she also gave me a very useful travel diary with a beautiful farewell message. Thank you, Barbara. Here is her message.

**Jasmine,**

**“Today is a closing chapter on one phase of your life.**

**Enjoy your retirement!**

**It is also a new beginning and as you embark on new journeys, here is a way to record and capture special moments.**

**I wish you much happiness in your future and good health.**

**Take care.”**

**Barbara**

***Deuteronomy 20:4 ESV***

***For the Lord your God is He who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies, to give you the victory.***



*I love this beautiful necklace and the diary is very useful*

If you would like prayer for a pleasant workplace environment, please join with me in the prayer.

***Prayer: Father God, I come to you in the mighty name of Jesus our Lord and Savior and by the authority of his precious blood. Father, I pray for my readers, that you will give them peace in their employment; I pray that they will have peace with their superiors, colleagues, customers, clients and all manner of people. I pray for peace, harmony and prosperity for all employers and employees. I pray for extra blessings of good health and prosperity to everyone.***



***Philippians 4: 6, 7***

- 6. Don't worry about anything; instead pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank him for all he has done.***
- 7. Then, you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything that we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.***



***Peace be with you!***

***Philippines 4: 13 ESV***

***I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.***

## CHAPTER 12

### THE EPIDEMIC OF MASACRE IN NORTH AMERICA



#### Epidemic in North America: ☹️

North America has a long history of mass murders, mainly in educational institutes and workplaces, and also in other places. What is the reason for this epidemic? Why would somebody want to kill his/her teachers and classmates? Why would somebody want to kill his/her colleagues or superiors or employers? Why would anybody want to kill anybody? People, mainly politicians, talk about gun control. Is gun control going to resolve the problems that North America is facing? Gun control may solve the problem to a certain limit, if there are fewer guns available. But how is gun control going to help people who want to take revenge for what they have suffered? How is gun control going to bring peace in the hearts of people? People whose hearts have been marinated with hurts, pains and sorrows from disrespect, disregard, injustice, discrimination and tons of other evils of their society – where are they going to find peace and justice? If they can't find guns, they will find some other ways to quench their thirst for revenge! How much control can a government put on the instruments of revenge and violence?

I wish we had some facts about what causes people to kill their colleagues and superiors and employers! What motivates people to kill their classmates and teachers? What makes a person violent? Gun control may put an end to shootings to a certain degree! But how can we understand what goes on in the shooter's heart, mind and soul? I wish we can understand what causes ordinary people to become shooters and murderers? Will the government put a ban on all weapons used for murder and outlaw all knives and tools used for murders and arsons or for other types of destruction? ☹️

Unfortunately, in most cases, the shooter or killer is being blamed. People talk about the shooter having some mental problems! Has anybody ever thought about what causes the shooter to have mental problems? Is society contributing to people becoming mentally unstable? In some cases, individuals who have been bullied, harassed and ostracized, turn into killers! It is too bad that the victims are almost always viewed as innocent people! In a majority of situations involving gun violence, the shooters end up committing suicide or being shot by police and thus are no longer alive to tell why they did what they did. ☹️ It is sad that provocation is not considered a crime! ☹️ It is sad that there is no penalty to people who cause provocation! ☹️ It is sad that most victims are considered to be innocent! ☹️ It is sad that usually people don't think that victims may have antagonized the killers to behave violently! ☹️

I wish there would be some research and investigation in North America to find out what factors cause people to become violent and commit mass murder! I wish North America would look into the victims' past as to what caused them to be victimized. I wish there would be an investigation about what reasons victims gave to the killers! I wish we can look into the shooters past to try and discover what provoked them to be

shooters! I wish there were criminal charges brought against provocateurs! Sadly, provocation is not even considered a defense for the accused! ☹ Unfortunately, provocation is not being charged as a crime! ☹

The following information about various murders has been taken through google search.

**Murder in Aurora, Colorado: ☹ <https://en.wikipedia.org>**

In 1993, four employees of a restaurant were killed, and one was seriously injured. The killer, who was fired ☹ from his job several months earlier, was very frustrated at his workplace. ☹

Looking back to my own story of being fired from work (see appendix), I feel led to think that probably the above killing may have been triggered by a case of wrongful dismissal from work. It takes a lot of time, patience, wisdom and money to fight for justice. Perhaps, the killer may have found it easier to kill than to find justice in the cobwebs of legal system! I feel sorry for the killer that he had to go through a rough time that contributed to his decision to take revenge by killing! I pray for peace for his soul. I pray for peace for the souls of the victims and their families.

**Shooting in Tucson, Arizona: ☹ [https://en.Wikipedia.org/wiki>Jared-Lee-Loughner](https://en.Wikipedia.org/wiki/Jared-Lee-Loughner)**

Jared Loughner had been suspended ☹ from his college he shot and killed six people. ☹

I feel sorry for the killer for what he may have gone through. I understand how it feels because I had been suspended from work for no fault. I wish he had the opportunity to file a grievance for suspension and probably he wouldn't have felt the motivation to kill anybody. I pray that God will give peace to the killer. I pray for the victims and their families for peace.

**Santa Monica Shooting:☹[https://en.wikipedia>wiki>2013\\_Santa\\_Monica\\_Shooting](https://en.wikipedia>wiki>2013_Santa_Monica_Shooting)**

John Samir Zawahri killed six people ☹ near Santa Monica College Campus. Zawahri was a student at Santa Monica high school before gaining admittance to Santa Monica College in 2009. The college had no disciplinary issues with Zawahri, official said. Zawahri prepared a three-page hand - written note that was found on his body. He expressed remorse for killing people but did not give a motive. He said 'goodbye' to his friends and expressed that his mother would be taken care of.

It is sad and confusing the unfortunate circumstances that likely led him to become a killer. I pray that our compassionate God will forgive him and give peace to the killer, the victims and the families.

### **Myers High School Shooting: ☹**

**[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/W.\\_R.\\_Myers\\_High\\_School](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/W._R._Myers_High_School)**

In Taber, Alberta, in April 1999, a 14 year old school drop-out ☹ shot and killed one student and injured another. ☹

It is sad to know that a teenager, at such young age, had become a high school drop-out. ☹ He must have gone through a terrible time at school. It sounds like he was very unhappy. Life must have been very hard for this teenager to deal with! I pray that our compassionate God will know his hurts and pain and will forgive him and grant him peace.

### **Dawson College Shooting: ☹ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dawson\\_College\\_Sh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dawson_College_Sh)**

In September 2006, Kimveer Gill began shooting near the school area. One victim died and 19 were injured. Then, he shot himself. ☹

When a killer commits suicide, it sounds obvious that there may not be any financial motive to kill others. If so, he wouldn't kill himself! It sounds obvious that he may have felt that the people whom he killed may have previously made his life miserable. It maybe that he could not deal with the incredible injustice he received from these people, and he just did not know how to deal with it legally. As mentioned above, the legal approach to getting justice is not always easier. It takes time and a lot of money. Not everybody is capable of persevering through legal proceedings. Some people find it easier to take the law in their own hands by killing. May God give peace to this killer! I also pray for peace for the victims and those survivors who continue to grieve the loss of those killed. I pray that our compassionate God will understand his hurts and pain and will forgive the killer!

### **University of Alberta: ☹ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University\\_of\\_Alberta](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Alberta)**

Travis Baumgartner shot four of his co-workers on university campus in June of 2012.

I feel sorry for Travis that he had to go through such a rough time! I feel sad for whatever made him to act criminally. I pray that God will forgive him. I pray for peace for the victims.

### **Shooting in Arapahoe High: (Excerpts from Page 215 and 216 of Spiral Notebook)**

Eighteen-year- old Karl Pearson, a senior at Arapahoe high in suburban Denver had threatened to kill his debate teacher, Tracy Murphy. The school psychologist had decided that he was a low level of concern. His mother had taken him to a mental health center where therapists determined he wasn't dangerous.

Three months later, he walked into his 2,100-student school carrying a cache of weapons on the 13<sup>th</sup> of December in 2013. When he came across his fellow students in the hallway, he demanded where he could find Murphy. When Murphy learned that Pierson was stalking him, he was hustled out of the building to safety, but not before Pierson aimed two shots at him and missed. Frustrated at not being able to locate his target, Pierson fired his shotgun five times down a hallway, hitting a student in the face and saying between shots, 'Where is Murphy? Where is Murphy? Where is Murphy?'

As a Sheriff's deputy closed in on him in the hallways, Pierson went into a classroom and killed himself. Friends and acquaintances of the Pearson family later described the young man as a very dedicated and bright student.

Pearson was a gifted debater. He had strong political opinions, and earlier in the school year he had been removed by Murphy as the captain of the debate team and then suspended.

He also wrote in his diary, he hoped that people would talk about "elementary school teasing.....Words hurt, can mold a sociopath, and can lead someone a decade later to kill." Mass violence is their way of demonstrating their own torture and torment to the outside world-this is what the world did to me. People who don't heal from traumas often re-act violently later in life!

### **A Comparison with Writer's Personal Experience**

During my experience working for my employer, I had been unjustly suspended from work without pay. So, I know how it feels to be suspended without just cause. I was also fired from STC unjustly where in a group of twenty employees, nineteen employees were given a calculator to do their work and I was the only one who was not provided with a calculator, but rather I was asked to share with another colleague who kept it by her side. (See appendix)

From reading this story in the Spiral Notebook, it is my own personal opinion that Pearson may have felt that injustice was done towards him by his teacher when he was removed as the captain of the debate team and when he was suspended. From what I read in the Spiral Notebook, It is my understanding that he did not intend to cause any harm to any other person. It is my understanding that he was enraged towards the person he thought who had done injustice towards him.

In my province, I have come to know that there are students' unions in colleges and universities. If there was a union, perhaps a student might have some recourse of filing a grievance against a teacher for being removed as a captain of the debate team and for being suspended. Or perhaps, a reconciliation meeting among the teacher, the principal, the student and the student's parents, might have brought a better outcome and a resolution to the problem. This would have been a better course of action than killing a teacher and committing suicide. I wished there was a counselling and prayer meeting in his church where he could have expressed what was going on in his life and would have received some counselling and emotional and prayer support.

When I was going through difficult times at my workplace, I had called for prayer in my church often and I had called the prayer lines of evangelical ministries. Prayers, reading of scriptures and worship gave me tremendous strength to cope with my workplace harassment.

### **Back to Pierson's Story:**

I read that Pearson's mother took him to mental health center and he was also seen by the school psychologist. But, I don't remember reading anything mentioned in the Spiral Notebook if the school arranged for Tracy Murphy to see a psychologist to find out how Tracy drove this student to become so violent! I don't remember being mentioned in this book if the parents ever talked to the teacher to find out what provoked their son to kill. I don't remember reading anything if police wanted to talk to Tracy Murphy to find out what could have possibly given reason to the student to become so violent! It is also possible that they may have explored all these avenues and much more, but they are simply not mentioned in the book that I read. Or, did I miss it?

### **You can't clap with only one hand**

When I was a child, my mother taught me that you cannot clap your hands with only one hand. You need two hands to work together to clap. The deeper philosophical meaning of this saying is that for any kind of conflict, two parties are involved. Only one party cannot be totally responsible for any outcome of conflict.

It sounds obvious that peoples' behavior can contribute towards some people becoming sociopaths or killers. People often think that killers and sociopath have mental health problems and need psychological counselling. What I derive from this story is that it is the people who disrespect and harass an innocent individual they need the treatment from psychological and mental health professionals. It seems to me that the society is responsible for turning intelligent, creative and innocent people into psychopath. From reading this passage in the 'Spiral Notebook', it sounds like Pearson was not a mass murderer. He only wanted to kill the person that he thought had done injustice to him. People may call him a sociopath, but I think that all he wanted was justice. He thought that he would find justice by killing the person who had given him injustice, which is totally wrong.

It is my opinion that not only Pearson, who had tried to kill Murphy, needed some professional psychological help, but Murphy who may have motivated him to kill may also be required to take some psychological counselling.

Even in the Old Testament, looking at people's hardened hearts, God says: "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." Killing was not justified.

I personally, do not justify killing at all. However, it is my personal opinion that provocateurs are not innocent at all. **Provocateurs need mental health and psychological counselling, and they need to be accountable for antagonizing a**

**person to act as a sociopath and killer. I believe that provocateurs deserve some punishment, too.**

### **From Spiral Notebook: by Stephen and Joyce Singular**

The author says about the educational environment in his book - 'Spiral Notebook', quoting Michael Hall, the Holistic Health and Wellness Coordinator and counselor at PsycheHealth: " It is an environment in which a few can be stars and the others are made to feel inferior or like failures. There's a lot of toxicity in these environments. The kids who erupt into violence hate themselves. The mass violence is their way of demonstrating their own torture and torments to the outside world-this is what the world did to me. People who didn't heal from the traumas often reenact them in the external world."

### **Shooting in Brampton Centennial Secondary School: ☹**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brampton\\_Centennial\\_Secondary\\_School\\_shooting](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brampton_Centennial_Secondary_School_shooting)

In 1975, a Physics teacher had recently vetoed one of Michael Slobodian's entry in a Science Fair. He wanted to take revenge because he hated the school system. The 16 year old Michael Slobodian killed two people and wounded 13 others before killing himself. ☹ I pray for peace for killer and the victims.

I wonder, what caused Michael to become a killer? Why couldn't he appeal teacher's decision? What did people do to him that drove him to commit suicide?

### **Columbine High School Shooting: ☹ Excerpt - Spiral Notebook, pages 149 to 152**

In April 1999 Columbine seniors Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold had walked into the school and opened fire with weapons, wounding twenty-three students and killing twelve teenagers, one teacher. They then turned the weapons on themselves. Their rage was directly aimed at the educational system, which they felt had mistreated them for years. They had been openly bullied in Columbine's hallways and finally decided to bully the bullies. The victimization they had felt by merely attending school would now be felt by everyone.

They had built ninety-five bombs and planted them mostly around the campus at Columbine. Some were intended to detonate inside the cafeteria during the height of lunch hour. When the survivors came running outside to escape the fireballs, two young men would be strategically placed to gun them down. The bombs and bullets were supposed to kill five hundred people.

When the explosives failed to go off, they entered the school and began shooting. It was supposed to "kick start a revolution" against their enemies -"niggers, spics, Jews, gays, f..... whites ...humanity."

Harris had written in his diary leading up to the massacre, "Everyone is making fun of me because of how I look, how f..... weak I am, and sh..., well I will get you all back, ultimate f..... revenge here. You people could have shown more respect, treated me better, asked for more knowledge or guidance, treated me more like a senior, and maybe I wouldn't have been so ready to tear your f..... heads off.... "

"Same thing with all those rich snotty toadies at my school. F..... think they are higher than me and everyone else with all their \$ just because they were born into it?"

They had made a videotape a month before the tragedy. They had apologized to their parents for the carnage that was coming. They were not angry at how their parents had raised them; they were enraged at the culture they found themselves living in as they moved through the educational system. Harris had shown remorse for what his parents would have to go through after the tragedy.

Klebold told his mom and dad that they had been "great parents" who had taught him "self-awareness, self-reliance.....I always appreciated that." He paused and said, "I am sorry I have so much rage." "My parents are the best f..... parents I have ever known," Harris said. "My dad is great. I wish I was a f..... sociopath so I didn't have any remorse, but I do." He spoke as lovingly of his mother: "I really am sorry about all this." And then he put into words what seems to be the driving force and the driving belief system behind one mass shooting after another: "But war's war."

And like many other soldiers, or terrorists, they were willing to sacrifice their lives for their convictions. Earlier, America had wars with only external enemies. At Columbine, the war had come home. Now the battle was against one's classmates - or oneself.

Before the April 20 attack, the boys expressed their long-standing hatred towards several groups and individuals within the high school. "You've given us shit for years," Klebold said of his classmates. "You are f..... going to pay for all the s... We don't give a s.... because we are going to die doing it." The problems Klebold went on, were much broader than what they had encountered at the school. They included all of "humanity. Look at what you made. You are f..... sh.. you humans, and you need to die."

"We need to die, too." Harris said.

After entering the Columbine library, but before opening fire, Harris said to the cowering students, "Everyone with white hats (worn by those on Columbine sports teams), stand up! This is for all the sh.. you have given us for the past four years! All jocks stand up! We'll get the guys in white hats!"

In the weeks following the massacre, the National Safety Centre reported that three thousand other high school students around the country had lately concocted bomb threats or violent schemes intended to result in death. Some adults were starting

to get the message that the discontent among the young was more widespread than just those who exploded into mass violence.

A neuroscientist at Anschutz says: “Your brain’s wiring gets put together as you grow up and go through your personal experiences. Ninety-nine percent of the connections of the nerve cells haven’t yet been made when you were born. They get connected through time. If you have a traumatic or fearful event when you’re young, all you need as an adult is for something to trigger that memory and then that piece of wiring in the brain gets activated. It is already imprinted on your brain circuitry. What you felt in first or second grade is still there, waiting to be felt again and waiting to re-traumatize you. If you were bullied as a child, the wiring for that experience is still in place. All it takes is to be triggered.”

### **Going Back to my Personal Story:**

I thank God that I was not bullied as a child or during my various educational fields. I was never bullied in any of my workplaces in the private sector.

I had suffered injustice while working for STC in the past, but I didn’t know the scriptures well then. I had faith but didn’t understand what God required of me and therefore, I think, my battle with them turned into defeat. This part of my story is enclosed in the Appendix.

I was bullied while working for LATB. If I hadn’t known the Lord, it is possible that I could have retained those memories in a negative way, impacting my psychological, physical plus mental health and spiritual growth and perhaps causing me to react in negative ways. Fortunately, by this time, I had matured in my understanding of the scriptures and had great faith in the Lord which helped me stand up against bullying.

I thank God that I do not carry those memories today while going about my day-to-day life activities. But I carry in my mind the “Peace of God”. Dealing peacefully with those memories has helped me to write this book. My intention to write this book is to help my readers to overcome bullying. Secondly, my intention to write this book is to stop the bullying in educational facilities, all work places, government offices and everywhere else. I personally do not have any powers or authority to stop bullying. It is my opinion that this book will bring awareness in society that bullying can provoke a bullied person to kill the provocateurs. I pray that bullies will realize that their lives can be in danger if the bullied person “explodes” in anger or in a fit of rage. I pray that bullying will stop everywhere. I pray that government will take some action to stop bullying. I pray that video cameras with audio will become mandatory in every school, educational places and places of work and in all government offices, so that everything can be recorded. I hope that there will be video cameras with audio, installed in hallways and every classroom and every office. I wish there could be investigation concerning what provokes people to kill. I believe that there should be legal consequences for people who provoke other people to kill. It is my opinion that provocateurs should be charged with offences. It is my opinion that provocateurs need to pay a penalty if and when convicted.

## **My Mental and Psychological Health:** (going back to my personal story)

I was harassed extensively at my workplace. Every single day, I prayed for my colleagues and superiors. Every single day, I prayed for God's wisdom to deal with the situation.

☹ Occasionally, I had imagination that my colleagues would go underground alive where there is no light and the place full of worms and snakes. I do not know where that imagination came from. However, I did not entertain that imagination for a long time. I turned to the words. ☺

### **Luke 6: 27, 28**

**27. But I tell you who hear me. Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you.**

**28. Bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.**

I prayed for my colleagues. I wasn't able to love them because they didn't need my love. I never thought of harming them or killing them. I trusted that God will avenge my enemies unless they repented and turned to Him. I prayed for them that they would come to know the Lord. But I have no knowledge about the outcome.

### **Peace:**

I had the perfect peace of God surrounding me. I was able to function well effectively in the office. I could perform my duties with peace of mind. This is amazing how God gives us peace in the midst of the worst circumstances. ☺

The peace that God gave me in the midst of turmoil was like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who remained unharmed when they were thrown in the fiery furnace.

The peace that God gave me was like Daniel, who was thrown into the den of lions and was unharmed.

### **Isaiah 26:3**

***You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast because they trust in you.***

The turmoil that I went through in my office did not harm me mentally or psychologically or in any other way, except that I had some financial loss. I had to accept reduced wages during long stress leave and incurred legal costs to a year's wages!

If I didn't know Jesus, I may have done something drastic and terrible similar to the many examples I gave earlier of the horrible things that have happened in North

America. I thank God that I had the Holy Spirit directing my life style, my mind, my emotions, my spirit to keep my head above the water.

### **Galatians 5:22, 23**

***But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, and self-control. Against such thing, there is no law.***

It has been over a decade since I retired from that workplace. I have not forgotten what they did to me. However, I do not think about those events on a daily basis. I hardly think about them, except when I am writing my book as I must record the incidences accurately to the best of my ability. Otherwise, I personally think that those memories are not worth remembering.

### **Garbage:**

Those memories are like a bag of garbage. At home, when I throw something in the garbage, I don't dig into the garbage to see what I threw. Once I throw the garbage bag in the garbage bin, I do not go back to look into the bin nor do I want to bring back into my home what I threw in the garbage. Once the things are in the garbage, they are gone out of my home and out of my mind. If anyone brings the things back from the garbage, it is going to stink horribly. So, let's not bring anything back that is worthless. This is my attitude towards all that happened to me at my workplace. Why would I want to spoil my current life with the undesirable memories of the past? I have no desire to contaminate my current life by bringing back the stinky memories of my past.

### **Focussing on Memories:**

Why do I focus on those memories in this book? The purpose is not to bring distastefulness into this book. The purpose is to bring glory to God because of how He helped me through the worst circumstances and brought me victory. It is like crucifixion. The story of crucifixion is not entertaining. It is quite disgusting, horrible and cruel. But it would be even worse if it was not followed by Christ's resurrection. We are able to endure the story of crucifixion because we know why it happened and we know what is ahead. In bringing back the memories of my workplace, I bring glory to God as to how God helped me to overcome all the struggles of my life! I am proud to say that after all the struggles I went through, the end result was good. I retired with a beautiful shiny gift of a silver necklace. Overcoming the hurdles has its glittering shine on it.

In my retirement, I no longer go through that kind of harassment. Why do I want to spoil my current life because of remembering the past? The disgusting attitude of my colleagues and superiors is forgotten in a sense that I do not dwell on them. But I can always scratch my memory to write them in my book and specifically to bring glory to the Lord because it is my testimony how God had empowered me to have peace in the midst of turmoil. Indeed, He gave me the strength to continue to perform my duties to the best of my abilities. 😊 I am proud of my God. 😊 I am proud of my Lord Jesus. 😊

I am proud of the Holy Spirit ☺ who gave me strength to function well in the midst of turmoil. ☺

### **Alarming Gun Violence & Massacre:** (Back to North American Violence) ☹

According to the account given In Spiral Notebook written by Stephen and Joyce Singular, there were over 6 mass shootings per year between 2000 and 2006. Between 2007 and 2013 there were over 16 mass shootings per year. Mass shootings had killed 486 people and wounded 557 people. Forty of the fifty states had seen mass shootings. Shooters usually acted alone. Out of 160 such massacre, 6 were done by women. Forty percent of the shooters committed suicide at the scene. 69 percent of the shootings were over in less than five minutes and before the law enforcement could respond. In past two decades, more than thirty thousand Americans have died due to gun violence every year. (Statistics taken from Spiral Notebook)

### **Peace beyond Understanding:** ✝ ☺ (Going back to my personal story)

I thank my Lord for protecting me while working in that poisoned office. God protected me spiritually that I wouldn't think or do anything crazy or act violently, like the above examples. There were a few times when I had been upset and depressed. But it didn't last very long. Within a short time, God gave me the strength to take the necessary actions within the law. Most of the time, I have worked with peace and gave good service to my clients. God gave me His amazing peace and a sound sleep every night that I had the strength and the courage to face the battlefield of my workplace every day. I thank my Lord Jesus for protecting me in this volatile workplace. Thank you, Jesus, for the peace that you gave me which is beyond understanding. ☺

### ***Philippians 4: 6***

***And the peace that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.***

P. S. The information in this chapter is taken from Google search and "Spiral Notebook" written by Stephan and Joyce Singular. I have tried my best to cite the information as accurately as possible but cannot guarantee its complete inerrancy. I also cannot guarantee the reliability of the sources of information either. However, I reasonably believe them to be true information.

The incidences of gun violence and mass murder are not limited to what are described in this book. There are plenty of other cases of mass murders and gun violence in North America. This book simply can neither contain all the incidences of gun violence and mass murder nor do I have any authority to cite them all.

***Prayer: Lord, we pray concerning gun violence and mass murders in North America that you would help us find a solution to this problem. We pray that You will give wisdom to respective authorities in North America to figure out the causes of violence and help them find solutions to stop these kinds of bullying***

***and so to bring to an end this horrible epidemic of murders and violence. Lord, we pray that all forms of harassment will stop in North America. We pray that mass murders will stop in North America.***



***Peace be with you!***

## CHAPTER 13

### FEAR AND INSECURITY

#### **In my Hometown in the Province of Gujarat:**

(A comparison between North America and my hometown)

☺ When I was growing up, we didn't have to worry about other children hurting us in schools or neighborhood. I walked to school by myself, attended all the classes and walked back home with classmates in my hometown of Surat. That was in the 1950's and 1960's. We didn't know what bullying was. Gun violence was not an issue because we had gun control in our country. While attending college and university, bullying also was not an issue. We had not heard about bullying in those days, neither in my hometown nor in other parts of Gujarat or anywhere else. ☺ Nobody insulted anyone. Nobody harassed anyone. We were not taught much western style lip service, like: 'please!', 'thank you', 'have a wonderful day!' and such. We did not have much sophisticated conversation, but, our normal communication conveyed those polite and caring messages, anyway.

#### **Right of Way for the Bulls:**

Since childhood, we were taught to stay away from bulls. In our hometown of Surat, sometimes we would see a bull running on our streets. When, a bull is running after a cow, he has the right of way. A bull is over all authorities! Everybody has to get out of his way or be crushed under his feet. So, when we walked to school, if we heard a bull running, we would climb a few stairs of a house nearby and wait patiently until the bull had gone by. Only when we realized, it was safe to get by, then, we dared to step on the road. This was the only 'bullying' experience we had known and it may have happened very rarely. Yet, we were taught to be cautious about it. People voluntarily gave the right of way to these bulls! And, I have not heard anybody being injured by a bull.

#### **In North America:**

In North America, the society is different. Here are a few excerpts from Spiral Notebook written by Stephen and Joyce Singular.

#### **A 26 year old female in Virginia wrote: ☹ From: Spiral Notebook – Page 97**

You also have to learn how to deal with pressure. I am suffocated by everything I am supposed to do – go to school, get great grades, get a job right away, fit in, and be a huge success.

Follow this path all the way and you win. Follow another path and you are nobody. The pressure to win is everywhere. It's on top of us pushing down, from grade school on. It feels like you're in struggle for your survival, even if you have financial resources. My friend and I constantly talk about this. It's a part of our daily reality. I think there is reason Adam Lanza went into an elementary school and shot it up and killed all those kids. School is where it all begins.

P. S. I don't know why Adam Lanza shot all the children. When we talk about children, often people say: 'those innocent children!' But, some years ago, I was walking with my husband in my neighborhood. We were just going to the Tennis Court to play rally. So, we had tennis rackets in our hands. Few children from our neighborhood, about the ages between five and ten, started following behind us and shouting at us: 'you pakis!' 'you Hindus!' etc. My husband lost his temper and he was almost going to hit them with the racket and I prevented him. These kinds of things did not bother me because of my father's teaching that we should not respond to barking dogs! The point I am making here is that children are not always innocent! I have seen children harassing and beating up other kids and being very disrespectful towards adults. So, anybody can get angry at children, too!

**From a 25 year old male working on his master's in computer science in Chicago:**

**From: Spiral Notebook – page 218**



It isn't just one thing that's creating the mass shooting phenomenon. For some kids bullying begins on the first day they enter school and doesn't stop. Plus all the competition. Plus the pressure to succeed and make a lot of money.

Every day I live in fear that someone on my campus will pick up a gun and explode into violence. Every time I enter a classroom, I think about it. What happens if an active shooter walks in the door! The school sends out emails about ADAPT (Adolescent, Development, and Preventative Treatment). I get these emails four times a year. Older people didn't grow up with that fear, but those my age haven't had any choice about it. It's right in our faces every week or every day. Nothing in our culture teaches us how to deal with trauma.

P. S. The above information is taken from Spiral Notebook written by Stephan and Joyce Singular.

Please join with me in prayer if you like.

**Prayer: Father God, I come to you in the mighty name of Jesus our Lord and Savior and by the authority of His precious blood. Lord, I come to you on behalf**

of North America that you will bring some changes in our land that we will find peace, trust, mutual respect and security to move around freely. Lord, we specifically pray for educational places that you will bring peace, mutual respect and harmony among students, so that they can take education peacefully and comfortably.



**2 *Chronicle 7 :14***

***Then, if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and forgive their sins and restore their land.***

**1 Timothy 2: 12**

***I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving be made for all people – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.***

## CHAPTER 14

### HOW SHALL WE END THE EPIDEMIC OF MASS SHOOTING & VIOLENCE?

Politicians, governments and the general public are all concerned about mass shootings and violence. We all want to live in safety. Here are my thoughts how we may be able to find a solution to stop mass murders and gun violence.

I personally believe that mass shooter should not be killed, especially a shooter who does not have a history of violence. It would be better if police would try to capture the shooter alive because we need to know why the shooter killed many people. We need to hear from the shooter! A mass shooter should be given an opportunity to write or dictate or tell his story of turmoil as to how, why and what led him to commit a violent crime! A shooter should be given a peaceful, comfortable and non-threatening environment to write his personal story as to what led him to become a shooter or mass killer. It would be better if we can leave the death penalty as a legal consequence to be decided by the judge. If the shooter is dead, how shall we know why he killed so many people? I personally believe that every shooter should be given a perfect and peaceful opportunity in a non-threatening environment, to write a personal biography of the turmoil of his mind as to what caused him to kill or become a mass killer. Let the shooter be given full opportunity to express himself. We need to know the reasons behind mass shootings. We need to be compassionate and nonjudgmental. The only way we will be able to find the reasons behind shootings, is by keeping the shooters alive and giving them full opportunity to express themselves in a peaceful, pleasant and non-threatening environment. They can either write or dictate their thoughts. We need to provide them with all technological tools to help them write their story. Killing the shooter can only cure the symptoms of the disease temporarily in a small area, but, it will not stop the recurrence of such events. It is not going to stop other shooters from rising up. By allowing the killer to express himself, we will be more likely to learn the cause of the disease, so that we can find a cure for the disease.

It is my understanding that we need some evidence of a killer's life in that environment (where the mass murders happened) at least last six months prior to the incidence of 'mass killing'. Probably, it would be beneficial if we have access to video camera films with sound, of the place where the mass shooting had occurred, such as his or her workplace or classroom or common areas like lobbies. Then, we would probably find out if the shooter was provoked and who provoked the shooter and how and how long the provocation had been going on. Since mass shootings are often the results of provocations, perhaps it would help to have some legislation against provocateurs. If we are able to establish that the provocation may have been the prime reason for shootings, perhaps it would help to have legislation that considers provocation to be a crime. Then, a penalty against provocateurs may help as a deterrent to reduce the number of mass shootings.

If legislation was established which mandated audio video cameras in every classroom and lobbies of all educational places, in every governmental offices and all

employment workplaces, specifically where a large number of people gather, it may help us to establish the reasons behind mass shootings in case if such an event occurs. In order to help establish reasons for the mass shootings, it should be mandatory to provide such video films (with audio) from the organizations, where the event occurs. If the organizations where the shootings occurred have the responsibilities and required by law to provide the films of that location for a length of six months prior to the event, to the respective investigative authorities, we may probably find the reasons why the shooter went on a mass shooting rampage. Perhaps, it may help us a lot if we can deal with the causes and reasons behind mass shootings, instead of taking the life of a mass shooter.

It is my opinion that prior provocation against shooters should be considered as a defense for the shooters and the punishment to the shooters should be reduced by the degree of provocation. It is my opinion that provocateurs need to bear some punishment. I believe that this legislation (policy) may help to reduce the crime of mass shootings.

### **Going Back to My Personal Story:**

I feel unfortunate that my employer had installed the camera a few weeks prior to them charging me with assault, but did not provide any films with the lame excuse that the camera was not working and then went ahead with harassing me with assault charges, based on perjuries. Again, the camera should not have been focused towards my cubicle only. The camera should have been at a location to take the film of the entire office space in which I worked.

### **Remedies:**

Here are my thoughts which may help to reduce the crimes of mass murders/shootings as well as to prevent false accusation against an innocent person:

- 1) There should be a fee to make accusations against an individual for criminal offence, with a provision of 'fee waiver' based on income level.
- 2) Video cameras with audio included must be mandatory in educational places, businesses, employment places, transit, government offices, etc. where a large number of people congregate.
- 3) Provocation should be considered as a punishable crime.
- 4) Punishment for the mass killers should be reduced according to the degree of provocation.
- 5) Provocateurs (if charged) need to bear some expenses towards the cost of keeping the killer in jail.
- 6) Jealousy has caused many crimes. Jealousy is often based on looks, clothes, skills, etc. It is my opinion that we can avoid jealousy to a certain degree because of how we dress and what we wear. I believe that all educational institutes and work places should have their uniforms for their students and employees to wear, perhaps one kind for warmer climate and another kind for colder climate. It is necessary that all the employees and all the students feel

equal with others and nobody is more superior over others because of how they dress. There should be a specific dress code and it would be better if the uniforms are supplied by schools/employers at a reasonable cost. This may help to reduce crimes due to jealousy.

Where I grew up, we had uniforms in our schools. Also, in our culture, jealousy was rare. There was more acceptance towards people who were superior to others. We did not make fun of people who seemed to be inferior to us. I do not recall anybody so insolent in any of my class ever in my young age, as I have seen in the place where I live now. I think, uniforms may help us to reduce jealousy to a degree and it can ultimately help us to reduce crimes related to jealousy.

We need to renew our hearts and minds. We have to be satisfied in what we have and what we are. We need to accept ourselves. We need to accept people who are better than us and learn from them. We need to accept people who are inferior to us and help them so they can improve. It requires a break-through in our culture. It may be worthwhile to introduce some courses and psychological training to people to accept people who look wealthy and superior over others and be satisfied with what we have and that may help us to reduce crimes and bring peace in our land. I also believe that 'prayers to guard our hearts to make us free from jealousy' is also very important.

Let us pray that we will find some reasons behind mass shootings so that we will be able to remedy this problem in North America. Let us pray that we will have equality in every educational place and work place and everywhere.

***Prayer: Lord, we pray concerning gun violence and mass murders in North America that you would help us find a solution to this problem. We pray that you will give wisdom to respective authorities in North America to figure out how to research the causes of violence and help them find solutions to stop these kinds of bullying that may cause people to become violent and so to bring to an end this horrible epidemic of murders and violence. Lord, we pray that all forms of harassment will stop in North America. Lord, we pray that you will renew our hearts to be able to accept people who are better than us and learn from them. We pray that you will help us to refrain from jealousy. Amen!***



*Peace be with you!*

**John 14: 27**

***Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.***

We can make efforts to reduce crimes and bring peace in our land by various means. In addition, we need to pray because the Lord has given us promise to give us peace.

**Galatians 5: 22, 23**

***But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such thing, there is no law.***

## CHAPTER 15

### MAY GOD HELP US FIND PEACE

How long shall we go on tolerating mass violence and murders? Are we going to continue living in our society the way it is? Are we going to accept that mass shootings and murders are the way of our daily lives?

We accept many changes in our lives and we then accept them as normal. The advances in technology, knowledge, religion, multi-cultural arts and foods, and many other changes, we have accepted from time to time. Many of these changes make our lives easier to live and more joyful.

We are all usually happy about good changes in our lives. We can all live with developments and technology that make our lives more comfortable, such as communication at our fingertips, reaching destinations in shorter times, photography at our fingertips, easily available and affordable entertainment, enjoying the taste of many ethnic foods and many more benefits we enjoy with advanced technology and better economic conditions.

However, there are still shootings, murders and bullying. The threats to our lives are more unpredictable than ever before. We can send our children to schools, but there is no guarantee they will return home. To satisfy our economic needs, both parents usually have to work and thus we can't look after our children all the time. Teachers can't look after their students all the time. There are so many high school drop-outs partly because of bullying! ☹ This is so sad! ☹ There are so many people on welfare, partly because they can't cope with bullying in their workplaces! ☹

In this century, our children's lives and our lives are not safe anymore. Specifically, hearing about gun violence and murders, our hearts are fearful when our young children or grown-up children are gone away. Children worry about the safety of their parents, too.

We talk about gun control. Of course, tighter gun control legislation can save lives and prevent murders if the guns are less available!

But how will the society control the people whose hearts are stirred up with revenge and violence? They won't be as likely to use the guns if they have no legal access to them! But how shall we prevent all other methods of murders, violence and revenge? What about nuclear, chemical, biological weapons? What about arsons?

Gun control can only help prevent murders committed by people using guns. But it will not stop the mass killing by other means. People who have undergone mistreatment, discrimination, humiliation, insults, disrespect, beatings, injustice, harassment, cruelty, and many other evils in this society will find other ways to take

revenge for what they have gone through! If they want to see their enemy dead to satisfy their revenge, they will likely find a way to gratify their hunger for revenge.

It is my opinion that gun control in North America may solve the problem partially. But gun control is not going to calm down the revengeful hearts. Gun control is not going to take away their agony and give them peace in their hearts. We need to understand why the perpetrators committed mass murder and violence.

Looking back to my own life story of suffering harassment, insults and injustice, I do not know what would have become of me if I didn't know the Lord? I can think of a few things:

- a) I would have thought about quitting my job and applying for another job if I had some energy, faith in myself, peace of mind and hope left in me and if the economy was flourishing.
- b) I would have thought about quitting my job and starting my own business if I had abilities and peace of mind and if the economy of the province was flourishing.
- c) I would have thought about quitting my job and applying for welfare! ☹ But again, I would have to fight to get my rights to obtain welfare payments! ☹
- d) Or, I may have done something crazy, such as hurting or killing my superiors and/or colleagues! ☹ ☹
- e) Or, I would have thought about doing something crazy such as blowing up the office! ☹ ☹ ☹

In my seventeen years of working with in this place, I did not think about causing any harm to anyone. This is all because of Jesus that I know him as my Lord and Savior. It is all because of His guidance and peace over me. It is all because of His Word that has given me direction in my life and the Holy Spirit giving me peace, joy & wisdom.

***Psalm: 119: 105***

***Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.***

**No Promotion:**

During all those years of working with them, I did not get a promotion. During that time, I expended my energy fighting against the injustices I faced and tried to sustain my job. Also, I lost interest in getting any promotion because I found out that some people in higher positions were acting like 'puppets'. I would never want to act like a 'puppet', even if I earned billions of dollars. I have also seen some people at the top, very smart, sharp and quick and amazingly wise, but seldom in our office. No, it was not so where I worked. Therefore, I do not have regrets for not getting a promotion in this place. I was happy to sustain my position. I also noticed that some people who didn't seem to act like 'puppets' were no longer working there.

## **Victory:**

Being given a retirement gift is an achievement for me. Specifically, when I see many examples of murders and suicides due to bullying, I consider that I have won the victory. I have overcome because I did not quit my job because of bullying. I have won the victory because I did not quit my job to go on welfare. I have won the victory because I did not injure or kill anybody due to outrage against those bullies. I have won the victory because I did not commit suicide because of the way my superiors and colleagues treated me. I have won the victory because I did not submit to signing a peace bond. I have won the victory in that the court battle is finished and I am free. I have won the victory because I worked until the time of my retirement and did not quit my job pre-maturely. All these victories bring glory to God! If I hadn't known the Lord, I would not have been able to sustain my job.

## **Reduce False Allegations:**

I wish that people should not have to suffer for having false allegations against them. I believe that harassment of bringing false allegations should also stop. It is my opinion that there should be a fee for bringing any allegations against any person or party. I do not mean that poor people should be unable to bring allegations against a criminal. In our office, there was a provision of applying for a fee waiver depending upon the person's income and/or circumstances. Similarly, there can be a provision of fee waiver for bringing charges against a person, depending upon their income level. The point that I am trying to make is that people who have decent earnings, should not be allowed to bring charges against another person for free. Because such free allegations result in people bringing charges against innocent people, this constitutes harassment. I pray for peace in our land.

## **Video Cameras:**

If there were video cameras in working order, in every day care center, play school, in every classroom and playground and lobby in academic school and educational institute and in every government office and business where people work, play and communicate with one another, we would be able to find out who committed the crime and maybe why. **But more importantly, we would be able to find out who provoked them to commit the crimes. It is very important for all of us to know who commits the crime, but it is equally, or even more important, to know who provokes people to commit crimes.**

## **Provocation:**

If the mass murderers are not shot and killed, we will have the opportunity to listen to their side of the story to learn why they committed the crime and who and what provoked them. I also believe that mass murderers should also be encouraged and given opportunity to write their biographies, specifically about why they committed that crime.

If provocation is treated as a crime, perhaps we would have fewer murders and shootings. I wish that provocation would become a justifiable offense, in order to protect the criminals, under the law. I wish that the sentence to the mass murderers should be reduced if provocation was a reason. I think that the sentence to the mass murderers should be reduced according to the degree of provocation. I believe that the provocateurs should be charged with punishable offence under the law. Then, we probably will be able to prevent those who commit acts of violence from committing them. **It is my considered opinion that provocation should be considered as a crime and provocateurs should bear the punishment for their actions under the law.**

#### **Peace:**

Let us have peace in North America. We can have peace by respecting one another, and caring for one another, and being kind to each other. Jesus said:

#### **Matthew 7:12**

***Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.***

God gives us peace. Here are a few Scriptures regarding peace.

#### **Numbers 6: 24 to 26**

- 24. May the Lord bless you and protect you.***
- 25. May the Lord shine on you and be gracious to you.***
- 26. May the Lord show you His favor and give you His peace.***

#### **Job 22:21**

***Submit to God and be at peace with Him; in this way prosperity will come to you.***

#### **Psalm 4: 8**

***In peace I will lie down and sleep, for You alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.***

#### **Psalm 29:11**

***The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses with peace.***

#### **Psalm 34: 14**

***Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.***

**Psalm 37:37**

***Consider the blameless, observe the upright; a future awaits those who seek peace.***

**Psalm 85: 8**

***I will listen to what God the Lord says; He promises peace to His people, his faithful servants-but let them not turn to folly.***

**Isaiah 9: 6**

***For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God. Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.***

**Isaiah 26: 3**

***You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast because they trust in you.***

**Isaiah 32: 17**

***The fruit of that righteousness will be peace; its effect will be quietness and confidence forever.***

**Isaiah 52: 7**

***How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace. Who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, Your God reigns!***

**Isaiah 53: 5**

***But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.***

**Isaiah 55: 12**

***You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.***

**Matthew 5: 9**

***Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.***

**Luke 2: 14**

***Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.***

**John 14: 27**

***Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.***

I just want to remind my readers that this is the kind of peace I had experienced from the Lord when I was working in the volatile workplace of my employer. If I work in a place where everybody is nice to me, I do my job well, and I have peace of mind, and that is good. Of course, that is what I would like to experience. However, when people around me were looking for every chance to harass me and insult me, and yet I was able to work with peace of mind and give my best service to the public that I served, I consider that a victory. It was all because the peace of God that He gave me was beyond understanding. God gave me his wisdom, strength, and energy to deal with every problem with peace of mind! Glory to our God!

**John 16: 33**

***I have said these things to you, so in Me you have peace. In the world you have tribulation. But take heart that I have overcome the world.***

**John 20: 19**

***On the evening of the first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for the fear of the Jewish leaders. Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"***

**Romans 5: 1**

***Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.***

**Romans 8: 6**

***The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.***

**Romans 12: 18**

***Do the best you can to live in peace with everyone.***

**Romans 14:17**

**For the kingdom of God is not what we eat and drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.**

**Romans 15:33**

**And now may God who gives us his peace, be with you all. Amen.**

**2 Corinthians 13:11**

**Dear brothers and sisters, I close my letter with these last words: Be joyful. Grow to maturity. Encourage each other. Live in harmony and peace. Then the God of love and peace will be with you.**

**Galatians 5: 22, 23**

**But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives; love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. There is no law against these things!**

**Ephesians 4: 3**

**Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.**

**Philippians 4: 6 to 7**

- 6. Don't worry about anything, instead pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank him for all he has done.**
- 7. Then, you will experience God's peace which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.**

**Philippians 4: 9**

**Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me-everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.**

**Colossians 3:15**

**And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts.**

**1 Thessalonians 5:23**

***May the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again.***

**2 Thessalonians 3: 16**

***Now may the Lord of peace himself give you his peace at all times and in every situation. The Lord be with you all.***

**James 3: 17, 18**

- 3** ***But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere.***
- 4** ***And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.***

**1 Peter 3: 9 to 11**

- 9. Don't repay evil for evil. Don't retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God has called you to do, and he will bless you for it.**
- 10. For the scripture say, if you want to enjoy life and see many happy days, keep your tongue from speaking evil and your lips from telling lies.**
- 11. Turn from evil and do good. Search for peace and work to maintain it.**

**Jude 1: 2**

**May God give you more and more mercy, peace and love.**

Let us all pray for peace, safety and harmony in our cities, communities, educational institutes, businesses, government offices and everywhere. If you would like please join with me in prayer.

***Prayer: Father God, we come to you in the mighty name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior and by the authority of his precious blood. Father, we pray for our country and specifically for our educational institutes, government offices, businesses, entertainment places and all other places, where people gather together that there will be repentance and acknowledgement of sin, forgiveness, peace, harmony, mutual respect, honesty, sincerity and safety in Jesus' mighty name. Amen!***



***Lord's Prayer:***

***Mathew 6: 9 to 13***

***9. After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven,  
Hollowed by thy name.***

***10. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven.***

***11. Give us this day our daily bread.***

***12. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.***

***13. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil. For thine  
is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.***

## APPENDIX 1

### MY EXPERIENCE WORKING WITH STC

After I finished my course in Accounting, I had a few jobs. The economic condition of this province was not very good during the early eighties (1980's), making it hard for employers to keep employees (in their employment) for a long time. Employers found it difficult to survive and there were many layoffs. I was looking for a permanent job.

In 1981, I was hired by Surrey Taxation Centre to assess peoples' income. After six-month probationary period, it was supposed to be a permanent position.

I prayed about this position. God told me that it will be my permanent job and warned me that I will have to go through many troubles. Some people may have trouble understanding how I heard God's voice. I cannot fully explain the experience of listening to (for) His voice. I can explain only through the Scriptures.

**John 10:27**

***'My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.'***

Everything was just fine in the beginning. We were in a group of twenty newly hired people, receiving our training in the beginning. I was the only visible minority among my group of twenty people. Larry was our first trainer and he trained us effectively. He also gave me a favorable work review on my performance.

#### **Sunday Bible Class:**

My husband and I were new to Christianity at that time. It was our first experience, ever in our lives, going to a church. We were taking a new believers' Bible class there. After several weeks of study, our Pastor Murray asked us if we wanted to get baptized. My husband said that he will not go that far. I expressed that I had faith in Christ and that is sufficient for me. I didn't need to get baptized. I had great faith and had developed a sound prayer life through a television ministry but I was not mature enough in God's Word, the Bible. I didn't understand baptism that well at the time. Besides, coming from a Jain background, we didn't have anything like baptism.

#### **Harassment from New Supervisor: (Back to work life)**

Then, after several weeks, our group was transferred to a new supervisor named Rusty. We continued further with the training. We were also asked to assess peoples' incomes.

Right from the beginning, Rusty started harassing me. He gave a calculator to my nineteen colleagues but not me. I was asked to share the calculator with my colleague

Donna. She sat on my right -hand side on a circular table. She kept the calculator on her right side because she was right-handed. That means I had to get up and walk around her to do my calculations, whereas she could do it by sitting in her chair without getting up. I requested that she keep the calculator in the middle of us to make it easy for both of us. But she declined. The performance review of our work was based on quality and quantity. Having to get up to do my calculations each time was affecting my efficiency. When I talked to Rusty about it, instead of giving me a personal calculator just like the others had, or telling Donna to keep the calculator in between us, he wrote in my performance review report that I did not get along with colleagues. This was unjust treatment. I should have my own calculator just like all other nineteen colleagues had. At the end of the day, we were supposed to report on the number of files we had accomplished. The evaluation of our work was based on accuracy and production. Not having a calculator of my own was a hindrance to my work efficiency. Rusty made derogatory remarks at me for whatever I mentioned to him. He ignored me when I asked a question. I was treated like a black sheep of the flock. I was the only colored person (with a different ethnic background) in our group of twenty.

Although my supervisor, Rusty, kept his family picture of his wife and kids on his desk, he was flirting with Donna. I did not care about their flirting.

All I wanted was to be treated equally as far as our work was concerned. All I wanted was that I should have been given a calculator just like my other colleagues were given. All I wanted was that he would respond to my questions during the training period, instead of making derogatory remarks. This injustice was beyond my tolerance.

Then, he made a work review report on my performance. I went to discuss this with him so as to better understand, in order to improve. He avoided discussing his comments on my file and expected me to accept his comments without question. It seemed quite obvious that anybody who would have read this report, without any knowledge of my work, could also figure out that Rusty was not only inappropriate, but totally unjust, in writing this report. I went home, heart-broken, and cried.

### **Health Problems and Misery at Work:**

Then, I had a serious asthma attack due to spring time pollen. This year, it was more serious than any other year. I had a lot of difficulty breathing. At home, my husband had runny nose and hay fever.

One day, Rusty made me totally miserable at work. His non-co-operation and derogatory remarks exceeded the limits of my patience. I thought I couldn't endure it anymore and I would have to tell him that I was sick and wanted to go home. But then, I decided that I would wait until my coffee break and seek God's guidance.

### **Our Baptism in Spirit and Water:**

I went on my coffee break. I found a nice sunny spot seeking for God's guidance. Within no time, I realized that my muscles were very tight and they began to relax. I

realized that the blood was not flowing in my blood vessels properly. My blood vessels were pinched at various points, restricting my blood-flow. Within no time, I felt that my blood vessels were relaxed, allowing the flow of blood to flow more freely to different organs and parts of my body. I could actually hear the sound of blood rushing in my blood vessels. I also realized that nerves in my body were tangled with one another, restricting the nerve signals from my brain to the different parts of my body and back to my brain. But, within no time, as God's power came upon me, all of my nerves were untangled. Now, the nerves were able to take messages from different parts of my body to my brain and from my brain, back to various parts of my body. I felt that the whole communication system was re-established in my nervous system. Over and above all these physical changes, I was filled with tremendous peace and joy that was beyond this world.

After the break, I went back to my desk. The same colleagues, same boss and same work atmosphere were all around me. Although the work environment hadn't changed, I was totally changed. I felt healthier. I had no trouble with breathing. The asthma was completely gone. Now, I was able to do the same work more efficiently. I was able to do it more efficiently and joyfully. I believe that I was filled by the Holy Spirit of God and that is why I had the joy all around me, under the same circumstances. So, I did not need to go home on the grounds of health problems and continued to work.

At home, because of severe allergies and colds, my husband started to pray. He prayed and his cold symptoms and allergies were gone. Then, they came back. So, he prayed again. So, again and again, he prayed. Finally, God filled him with His amazing love. He felt like he was in the shower of God's love and peace. He enjoyed those moments so much that he just wanted to stay there. He was wondering what was happening to him. He called our Pastor Murray, who explained that he was filled by the Holy Spirit of God.

***Romans 14: 17***

***For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.***

***Romans 15: 13***

***May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.***

***Philippians 4: 7***

***And the peace of God which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.***

### **Acts 9: 34 KJV**

***Peter said to him: “Aeneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole, arise and make thy bed, and he arose immediately.”***

We were both made whole by Christ Jesus. We were filled by the Holy Spirit of God. Thank you, Lord! It was the most wonderful thing that ever happened to us. Praise the name of Jesus! This happened while we hardly knew the Bible. However, we had become believers and we were praying to Jesus.

I hope and pray that the readers will understand that the joy that I am talking about is not the joy that world gives us, such as when we accomplish some achievement, or win a lottery, or buy a new car or a house, or receive Bachelor's or Master's degree. No, this joy was not of such worldly nature. This joy was supernatural, beyond this world. It felt heavenly.

### **Psalm 4: 7**

***You have filled my heart with greater joy than when their grain and new wine abound.***

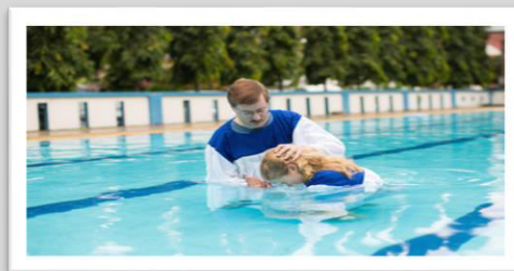
### **Psalm 16: 11**

***You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.***

One of the songs that we sing at the church talks about heaven coming down. It talks about God's glory that fills our souls. It talks about making us whole at the foot of the cross. I can sing this song with great enthusiasm because of my amazing personal experience with the Holy Spirit.

My husband already talked to Pastor Murray that he wanted to be baptized when he explained about the Holy Spirit. When I was driving down the road, the Holy Spirit spoke to me that I also needed to get baptized.

Several days ago, Pastor Murray had asked us if we wanted to get baptized and we had both declined. But now we were ready. So, I called him and we were both baptized on the Easter Sunday of 1981.



## **Dealing with Unjust Review:**

Now, I had to do something about the unjust review that my boss Rusty had given me. First, I cried. Then, I prayed. The Lord told me that I should take this review to my first employer, David, of the accounting firm. The Lord told me that he will give me his comments on this report that will be useful. It was embarrassing to show such a horrible report to my ex-employer. But with the Lord's advice, I took the courage and went to see him. David could hardly believe that anybody can write such stupid things. Even if somebody does not know what kind of worker I may be, it was obvious for anybody, even a stranger, to judge that the report was inappropriate. David assured me that he would write me a letter. David also advised me that I should write a letter to Rusty's boss about this performance review expressing the injustice that I had received from him.

## **Disobedience and Stupidity:**

During my prayer, God told me that I should spend time with Him during my first coffee break. In the morning, I prayed before going to work. In the evening, I prayed before going to bed. I thought that it was enough. So, during the coffee breaks, my desire was to socialize with my colleagues and get to know them. This was my stupidity after the wonderful experience that God had given me in his presence during a coffee break. I was foolish to spend time with my colleagues who probably did not care about me because they all cared more about pleasing the supervisor than me. Sometimes, when I had lots of trouble with my supervisor, then, I did go to seek God's presence. But often, I was tempted to mingle with my colleagues rather than spending time with God.

Actually, God didn't ask too much from me. He asked me to spend just one coffee break out of two! He didn't ask me to spend my lunch time with him! If I had been wiser and more obedient, my work probably would have been more fulfilling!

Once, we were all having lunch together. I had some rice and chickpeas with Indian spices. I was sitting at the same table where Donna was sitting. As I opened my lunch, she asked me to sit somewhere else because she couldn't bear the smell of Indian spices. Oh, she was so insolent!! The Indian spices were so appetizing but she didn't like them and she had the nerve to tell me openly to sit somewhere else! She was so rude! I often don't like the smell of fish or beef but I never told anybody to sit far from me. If I didn't like it, I would move away. But to tell somebody to sit far away because of the smell of their food is so unbelievably insolent!

During those difficult days at work, I often read a few pages from "Our Daily Bread" published by Radio Bible Class. Each and every page in that little booklet was very uplifting and it gave me strength to go through the day.

After a long time, I came to understand why God wanted me to spend one coffee break with Him, despite the fact that I spent a lot of time in prayer with the Lord, at home.

### **Mathew 10: 37**

***Anyone who loves his father and mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; Anyone who loves his son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.***

Jesus wants us to love him more than our father, mother or children. He definitely wants us to love him more than our colleagues.

### **Mathew 10: 33, 34**

***33. Whoever acknowledges Me before men, I will acknowledge him before My father in heaven;***

***34. But whoever disowns Me before men, I will also disown him before My father in heaven.***

I think, Jesus wanted to know if I was going to put Him first before my colleagues. I should not disown Him before the people I work with. I must acknowledge Jesus. Making a commitment to spend time with my Lord, instead of spending time with my colleagues, is pleasing to the Lord. Am I willing to be a 'loner' in the office to spend time with my Lord? Is the Lord my companion in the workplace? Is my Lord my closest companion at work? He didn't (doesn't) really ask too much from me. In fact, it was too little that he asked of me.

I think that the Lord likes to test us how much we love him. There is an example in the Bible when Jesus asked Peter how much he loved him.

### **John 21:15**

***When they had finished eating, Jesus asked Simon Peter: "Simon, son of John, do you truly love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you."***

Then, Jesus asked him the same question two more times.

### **Report on Rusty's Conduct:**

As per the advice from my ex-employer David, I wrote a letter to Rusty's boss Jerry. I explained to him how I was mistreated by him. I explained to him that I was the only employee who was not given a calculator to work. I thought, he would understand and provide me with a calculator. I also pointed out an error in the work manual. I thought he would make the necessary correction in the manual. I thought it would bring some justice and reconciliation. I felt proud of what I was doing. Above all, the main purpose of my actions was to promote justice.

## **Unfulfilled Promise:**

The next day, Jerry called me into his office. I was expecting a good solution to the problem. But alas, I was fired. They gave me one week's extra pay but did not allow me to work or come into their building because I had exposed an error in the manual of the department. They took away all my instruction manuals, my photo identification card and my parking pass.

This made me very depressed. The 'sky had fallen' on me and under its heavy weight, I lay crushed and depressed for a very long time. I was disappointed with God for not keeping His promise about the permanent job.

My husband took me to our pastor Murray's home. Pastor Murray and his wife Carol were both very kind to us. They prayed for and comforted me. I thank Murray and Carol for letting us visit them and listening to us. But my sorrow was too deep to be comforted. In his home, there was a picture of Jesus. I saw tears in His eyes. I had seen this picture in his home before but did not recall seeing tears in Jesus' eyes. The following Scriptures explain the tears in his eyes:

### ***Jeremiah 13: 15 to 17***

***15. Hear and pay attention. Do not be arrogant, for the Lord has spoken.***

***16. Give glory to the Lord your God before He brings darkness, before your feet stumble on the darkening hills. You hope for light but He will turn it to thick darkness and change it to deep gloom.***

***17. But if you do not listen, I will weep in secret because of your pride; My eyes will weep bitterly overflowing with tears, because the Lord's flock will be taken captive.***

## **The Price of Pride:**

Why did God not keep his promise to me? Was it because of my pride? When it happened, I was not aware of such consequences. Now, I understand that I did not give glory to God in helping me to write a letter which was as effective as a three dimensional picture. I questioned myself. Had I heard God's voice? Or was it my imagination? Now, I was confused about my faith in the Lord. Sometime later, my neighbor, Heather, showed me the following scripture. It was a good lesson that I learned from her to always "test the spirits" to see whether they are from God or not.

### ***1 John 4 : 1, 2, 3 KJV***

- 1. Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirit whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world.***
- 2. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every Spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God.***

**3. And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God and this is the spirit of antichrist, whereof you have heard that it should come, and even now already is it in the world.**

To this day, I trust that God did promise me that job. I believe that I listened to God and not a false spirit. Maybe it was because of my pride that God allowed me to suffer injustice. God's promise seems to remain unfulfilled to this day.

**Jeremiah 13:9**

***This is what the Lord says: ``In the same way I will ruin the pride of Judah and the great pride of Jerusalem.***

Had I been humble and obeyed God, trusted Him and followed his direction, this probably would not have happened. Mistakenly, I had trusted in my ability to interpret the department's instruction manuals and expose errors in calculations of statistical data. Unfortunately, I had hoped for victory in my own strength rather than reconciliation and harmony through God's power.

**Proverbs 29:23**

***A man's pride brings him low, but a man of lowly spirit gains honor.***

This Scripture helped me to understand that my pride had brought me to ruin (to the termination of my employment).

**Ecclesiastes 9:18**

***Wisdom is better than weapons of war, but one sinner destroys much good.***

I had prayed for victory but not for reconciliation and harmony. However, the way my boss had treated me, it seemed impossible to think of reconciliation and harmony. I was not a mature Christian and did not pray according to His will. I wasn't mature enough in the Scriptures. I did not know that our God is powerful to help us achieve reconciliation.

**Mathew 5: 43 to 48 (New Living Translation)**

**43. You have heard the law that says: 'Love your neighbor' and hate your enemy.**

**44. But I say love your enemies. Pray for those who persecute you. He gives his sunlight to evil and the good, and He sends the rain on the just and the unjust alike.**

**46. If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much.**

**47. If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that.**

**48. But you are to be perfect even as your Father in heaven is perfect.**

During all these times, I had continued to pray for myself. But I never prayed for my colleagues, supervisor, manager and other superiors. I had developed a great prayer habit through the television ministry. We had started to go to church. The church had given us a Bible and I was reading it. But I was not grounded in His Words and I had not acted on them. Certainly, I had failed to discern His will.

**1 John 5: 14, 15**

**14. This is the assurance we have in approaching God, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.**

**15. And if we know that he hears us-whatever we ask-we know that we have whatever we ask of him.**

Some of my readers may have problems with people. It may be their employers, superiors, neighbors or business associates or friends. Some of my readers may be going through harassment and injustice, if you would like to pray, please join with me.

**Prayer: Father God, we come to you in the mighty name of Jesus our Lord and our Savior and by the authority of His precious blood. Father, we pray for those who ill-treat us, we pray for those who are unjust towards us, we pray for those who spitefully use us, we pray for those who are mean towards us that you will give them peace. We pray that You will heal their sorrows and sickness. We pray that you will provide their needs. We pray that You will bring them to your saving knowledge. We pray that they will come to the foot of the cross and be willing to be washed in Your blood. Amen.**

**Luke 23:34**

**Jesus said: “Father, forgive them for they don’t know what they are doing.”....**

## APPENDIX 2

### A PERSONAL TESTIMONY

As far back as I can go back in my past, I can recollect that I always had some kind of interest in religion. I used to visit, bow down and pray, (even when the accompanying cousin or brother wondered why?), in Jain temples in Bombay and sometimes visit even a particular Catholic church which was superbly build and decorated. Religious stories, discussions and discourses also interested me.

Before 1978 I understood religion is a bunch of rules and regulations for good living, which some wise men of the past devised, coming out of their experiences and/or inherited or received from some divine inspiration. Since about 1974 by reading and listening to Oral Roberts I came to believe that some men of God could, by praying to God, help us to miraculously overcome our problems, and also accomplish physical/psychological healings.

In 1977, we, the family of four, moved from Ottawa to Vancouver and the adjustments proved to be catastrophic as it drove me to the lowest possible point of despair, anxiety, fear, depression and utter hopelessness. I prayed with Oral Roberts on his TV shows and also wrote to him about my problems and got good results in getting jobs but didn't get peace of mind and freedom from anxiety and despair. For a long time I felt as if I was moving around completely hollow inside though physically, even as per doctors, I was alright. There was something missing inside of me, which no amount of working, eating, drinking, playing games and sports, enjoying favorite TV shows and doing other favorite things could satisfy. I had started seeking and searching for help in religion and God.

I was also reading the books of Drs. Norman Vincent Peale, Robert Schuller, and Wayne Dwyer in order to think positively and forget about the despair, anxiety, etc. They were effective for a while but the effect wore off. A psychiatric doctor from whom I tried to obtain solution and/or remedies for my problem, only manage to get some good counsel from me to restructure his investment portfolio.

In 1978 through the writings of an Indian guru I came to know how God can be reached, how to obtain His peace, how a guru and Jesus can bridge the gap between man and God and how salvation can be attained. For the first time it dawned on me that religion offers God's supernatural power, peace, joy and happiness, coming from above, vertically, or from inside, as opposed to the happiness from material things which comes horizontally through sense, of course you have to very carefully judge and choose the right religion and guru.

In 1979 we visited a church in Burnaby more out of curiosity than anything else and till this day continued to participate. We, myself and my wife Jasmine, by listening to the sermons and reading the Bible, learned a lot also made lots of good friends. However, it didn't appeal to me at all and I summed up that Christianity was just another good religion, like any other, that Jesus Christ was a very nice man who couldn't even

defend himself, that churchianity was a very good social group activity, sort of social club. I figured that this religion wouldn't provide the supernatural peace, joy and healing that I very badly needed to overcome my anxiety, fear, despair and worries. In February of 1981, pastor Murray of our church asked me if I wanted to get baptized and I said, I wasn't prepared yet, saying to myself, "Pastor, this is as far as I go with Christianity, no baptismal for me, no".

At this time I read Bill Bright's little book "How to be filled by the Holy Spirit," The book described that Christianity provided, even today, as in the first century after Christ, the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit of God, peace, joy, happiness and healings of God, through His son Jesus Christ. All you have to do to obtain the Holy Spirit of God was to pray as specified in that book. I read and re-read that little book about six times on the first day to confirm what I was reading was right as I was wonderstruck by its claims. Again I read that book day after day and prayed fervently, as described, many times each day. I was able to pray many times a day as I was struck down by very bad sinus allergies and congestion in head, eyes and nose and every time I prayed for about ten/fifteen minutes my congestion would clear for about two/three hours so that I could resume my work.

By this time I had also started watching 100 Huntley Street TV program and so many testimonies confirmed the claims made by the little book. On Huntley Street program I could identify myself with many people as lots of them had gone through the problems I was going through and subsequently received the most satisfying peace, joy, love, healings and happiness that only God could provide through His son Jesus Christ. I also saw the life changing power of Jesus Christ in action and Christianity as a personal relationship with God and Jesus, as opposed to a mere "religion".

The climax came when on one show Mark Buntain very enthusiastically described how Jesus Christ appeared in a hospital room in front of eight witnesses and miraculously healed Nita Edwards in a split second from head to toe and immediately disappeared...(I wish I can write about this incident, however, you can read all about it in "Miracle in the Mirror" by Mark Buntain.)

All of a sudden I came to know that Jesus Christ lives today as he lived 2000 years ago and the historical gap which existed in my mind between the time of Jesus Christ and today suddenly vanished. At the end of that show I prayed with David Mainse to accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and as he cried saying He bore and died for our sins, that the chastisement of our sins was poured out on Him, by His scars we are healed, I started crying like a baby.

As I continued to pray as Bill Bright had suggested, on March 21<sup>st</sup> 1981, at about 5 p. m. I felt the roof breaking up on me and a spring of water burst loose through my stomach inside of me, I was filled up right up to my head with the bursting water which burst from the bottom of my stomach towards the head and filled me up. 'First the peace, joy and love I have ever experienced. God and Jesus were with me in that room. They were pouring out the most overwhelming outpour of peace, joy and love on me. I didn't want to leave and quit praying as the warm stream of love joy and peace

going through me was just wonderful, and so I continued to pray as long as I could till our boys were knocking on the door saying “Come on daddy, the dinner is ready, mummy says we have to go shopping after dinner”.

I tried to ignore them and continued to pray as long as I could, but got up at last. I felt very happy and satisfied as my feelings of emptiness, anxiety, fear, despair, etc. were all gone.

In the kitchen I told my wife, Jasmine that today’s prayer was completely out of this world as I experienced the most unusual peace, love and joy such as I have never experienced before in anything, and I described the whole experience. She appeared to be jealous, asking me, what about our love and love for our children!!!

I had to explain to her that God’s love was inexplicably much more intense, pure, good and superb than our love and my love for children. The point is, the God’s love which I experienced was no doubt out of this world. No other experience in my living memory can possibly compare with the happiness I experienced in that love session with God, believe me. And I have experienced the joy of winning running races, storing large totals of scores playing cricket, storing 100 % marks in algebra and geometry in school and college, passing C. A. exam after four years’ of work and studies, having in hand first pay cheque, a luxury 22 days ship cruise on high seas, having brought the first house and first car etc.

I felt a ton of heavy load was taken off my head and shoulders and felt so much free. No doubt, I continued to pray every opportunity I got and for about a week I experienced almost the same love joy and peace that I described above. I was feeling so confident and cheerful that I wanted to tell the whole world about God and Jesus and I did tell a lot of people and saw lots of heads shaking!!! My confidence and cheerfulness knew no bounds and I had to watch out for speed limits while driving and pocket money while shopping/buying anything.

No doubt Jesus became, overnight, alive and most interesting to me and I read Mathew, Mark, Luke, John and Acts, back and forth I don’t remember how many times and have been ever since growing in Christian personal relationship with the Lord. Nothing else seemed to interest me except Jesus. I wondered why at Bible studies and church services people talked about all other subjects other than God and Jesus! All other subjects became boring to me. The sermon and all worship songs kept on lingering into my mind for hours and sometimes days.

I went to pastor Murray and asked to be baptized myself and my wife, both were baptized on April 17, 1981.

No doubt, I have continued to pray and trust the Lord with almost every little detail of my life

Shanti, amongst East Indians, means peace, but before the Lord baptized me with His Holy Spirit, I had not peace of mind. Only the Lord can bestow that supernatural peace in mind and spirit.

There have been plenty of crisis in bygone years; marital turbulence, threat of cancer and recovery from a deadly disease, financial crisis, family problems, etc. Through every crisis I have found the peace of God which passes all understanding and that helps to overcome problems. During the above referred deadly sickness the Lord assured me with lots of confidence saying "Fear not; fear not, for I am holding you in the tight fist of my right hand." His confidence and peace which came from inside really helped the whole family go through all the problems connected with a serious sickness.

He also gave me a verse from Psalms "The Lord has chastised me sore but has not given me over to death; I will live and declare the works of the Lord". And indeed I lived through it all.

My prayer hour with the Lord every day gives me lots of peace and there seems to be no crisis that cannot be resolved. Yesterday's regrets are gone; tomorrow's anxieties may never come. I have God's gift of now. I am more at ease with myself and with the world. My "doubting Tom" mind is also put to ease conforming every day that Jesus is Lord. At every step of the way and in every decision, the still small voice of the Holy Spirit of God guides me with His wonderful wisdom.

And we have found a whole bunch of wonderful Christian friends who make up the universal Christian family. Our family life has improved a lot. Our relationship in the following four areas has improved a lot too.

1. With God and Jesus,
2. With one's own self,
3. With all relations and friends, and,
4. With all beings,

My only regret is, why on the earth I didn't come to the Lord earlier?

No doubt, we keep on growing with the Lord by praying, reading Christian books, attending the church, socializing with Christian friends and talking about the Lord to every possible person who would care to listen and understand, as to what a wonderful treasure of goodies are available to them in God.

Written by: Shanti Ghala

December 20, 1989

P. S. This is a personal testimony of my husband Shanti Ghala that he wrote. His experience of the Holy Spirit is according to scripture John 7: 38.



***John 7: 37, 38 New Living Translation***

***On the last day, the climax of the festival, Jesus stood and shouted to the crowds, “Anyone who is thirsty may come to me! Anyone who believes in me, may come and drink! For the Scripture declares, ‘Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.’”***

***John 4:14***

***“But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst, but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.”***

## APPENDIX 3

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## APPENDIX 4

### SEMINARS

My employer used to get requests from various organizations inviting an Information Officer to come to their location to present a seminar to explain the functions of our office and how we would assist landlords and tenants with their tenancy problems and arbitration. My first speech at Public Trustee's Office was tremendously successful. The host circulated Presentation Feedback Report forms to all the attendees and they all gave amazingly praiseworthy comments. The host gave me a letter of thanks with copies of Presentation Feedback Reports attached. I also received praiseworthy letters of thanks from many other organizations wherever I went to speak about the function of our branch and how we can help landlords and tenants. I thank all my hosts for sending their letters of appreciation.

However, when my supervisor saw these reports she started harassing me. It is my understanding that she and my other superiors were jealous of me. The harassment I suffered in this office is described in this book; however, I cannot include each and every incident of harassment. There were many other incidents of harassment not mentioned in this book.

Then, at one time, they did not allow me to leave early enough to shovel the snow around my car so that I could arrive to my destination on time. My supervisor found this excuse 'for being late' to prohibit me from taking anymore speaking engagements for the rest of my employment with them.

Later, my colleagues started to harass me more and more. It is my understanding that my employer incited my colleagues to harass me to make me quit my job. The harassment continued to the point that I think that they incited my colleagues to falsely accuse me and press assault charges, against me. It was obvious to me that they wanted to get rid of me with false accusations and perjuries. It cost me almost a year's wages to disprove the accusations against me in the criminal court. The end result was in my favor. I thank the Lord Jesus for defending me.

There are many examples in Bible where jealous people have caused good people to suffer.

Daniel was thrown in the den of lions because people who were jealous of him talked to the king to make such a law that Daniel would naturally break it and get punished to be thrown in the den of lions. See ***Daniel 6***

When I was going through the court case defending false accusation of assault charges against me, my lawyer requested my employer to release all the documents from my personnel files through the Freedom of Information. Four days after the FOI

received the request from my lawyer, our apartment building where I lived was burnt in the fire and we lost everything that we ever had.

Once again after a decade since my retirement, I am very thankful towards the Freedom of Information Branch to help me retrieve one of the letters from a host regarding my presentation seminar at their office. This letter is enclosed herewith.

I give many thanks to Ms. Suzanne Hirschmann for circulating the presentation feedback reports to the audience and am grateful to all the people for their excellent feedback. It was a great encouragement to me to continue to give presentations.

Although Ms. Hirschmann meant it for my good, unfortunately, it appears to me that this circulation of feedback reports created some problems. It is my understanding that my superiors could not endure good reports about me. It is my understanding that they were jealous of my performance and therefore brought disciplinary action against me to prohibit me from delivering any more seminars. It is my understanding that they were not satisfied with only prohibiting me from taking any more speaking engagements, but they wanted to get rid of me from my employment. It is my understanding that they incited my colleagues to harass me to make me quit my job. But, I didn't quit my job. I suspect that my supervisor and other superiors may have incited my colleagues to give perjury against me and bring unfounded criminal charges against me to get me fired from my position. However, they did not succeed.

The letter of Ms. Suzanne Hirschmann is enclosed herewith. It is my understanding that my superiors became jealous because of this letter and all Presentation Feedback Reports from the attendees.

There are also other examples in Bible where people have done bad things to innocent people to make them suffer because of jealousy.

#### **Genesis 37: 4 ESV**

***When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peacefully to him.***

#### **Genesis 37: 11**

***So Joseph went after his brothers and found them near Dothan. But they saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him.***

#### **Proverbs 27: 4**

***Anger is cruel, and wrath is like a flood, but jealousy is even more dangerous.***

**Job 5: 2**

***Surely, resentment destroys the fool, and jealousy kills the simple.***

**James 3: 14 to 16**

***But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your heart, don't brag and deny the truth. Such wisdom does not come from above but is earthy, unspiritual and demonic. For where envy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every kind of evil.***

## LETTER REGARDING PRESENTATION



Province of  
British Columbia  
Ministry of  
Attorney General

May 9, 1995

Residential Tenancy Branch  
Ministry of Housing, Recreation and Consumer Services  
4th Floor, 5021 Kingsway  
Burnaby, BC  
V5H 4A5

**ATTENTION:** Jasmine Ghala

Dear Jasmine:

On behalf of Intake and Adult Services, Services to Adults, I would like to thank you for your interesting and informative presentation on May 3, 1995.

As requested, I enclose copies of the feedback forms completed by staff members and, as you will note from the comments, your presentation was thoroughly appreciated. Please find enclosed documentation concerning the Office of the Public Trustee, as discussed.

It was a pleasure to meet you. I understand you have already been contacted by a staff member who, thanks to your presentation, has discovered a valuable resource source. Thank you again.

Yours truly,

Suzanne Hirschmann  
Real Property Representative  
Client Services, Services to Adults

SHI/twa

Enclosure

cc: Mrs. Kimberly Azyan  
Manager, Intake Services

Mr. Rob Henderson  
Manager, Client Services

Marjorie Helland  
Supervisor, Residential Tenancy Branch

## APPENDIX 5

### NOTES OF THANKS

I thank my manager Barbara at LATB for her fair and wise management. She had kind and understanding heart. I appreciate her for her valuable managerial support. Thank you, Barbara. You may not realize it, but you are the reason why I wrote my first book: 'Overcoming the hurdles of life' and this second one: "One Blooming Lotus in the midst of Poison". My work at LATB was more joyful because of your clever managerial support.

I thank all those who have helped me with valuable information regarding copyright laws and related information. I specifically thank Artist Legal Outreach, Writer's Union of Canada, Access Pro Bono Society of BC, Lawyer Referral Services, Canadian Intellectual Property Office and Peoples' Law School for sending me very valuable information and the Act.

I thank Ms. Suzanne Hirschmann for circulating Presentation Feedback Reports to all attendees and sending me copies of them.

I thank the Freedom of Information Branch and the Public Service Agency for their sincere help in retrieving a valuable letter of Ms. Suzanne Hirschmann.

I thank Wikipedia Foundation for various information I received through google search and allowing me to use the information in my book. Their help is greatly appreciated.

Google Search has been extremely useful to me in writing this book. I have been able to research a tremendous amount of information. Google has helped me with the use of its spelling and dictionary features also. Google has helped me to find good books for various subject matters, specifically the books that have helped me to write this book. Google has helped me to find appropriate Bible scriptures for my book. I believe that the Bible scripture found through Google search has helped me to enhance the quality of my book. In fact, it would be difficult for me to estimate the amount of information I have been able to retrieve through Google search. I am also thankful for Microsoft Word program and all its valuable features that have been very useful in writing this book.

I am also thankful to the public libraries for lending me useful books to read. The Port Moody Public Library has really made my 'search for the books' very easy by communicating with me by email and obtaining some books from other libraries for me. I convey my deepest heartfelt thanks to my library and all public libraries.

I am thankful to University of BC library and Supreme Court library for allowing me to use their Law libraries to do some research on criminal laws and precedents.

I thank Counterpoint Press for giving me copyright permission to copy certain pages from Spiral Notebook. I thank authors Stephen and Joyce Singular for valuable information I received from their book 'Spiral Notebook'. Thank you very much for making your book available through public library.

I thank Wikipedia Foundation for allowing me to use their information in my book. They have been a great source of valuable information. I believe that Wikipedia information will help open the eyes of people to understand the severity of epidemic of mass murders in North America and it will enhance the purpose of my book of bringing revelation that something has to be done to combat the disease of mass violence and destruction in North America.

I thank my friend Peter Brooke for his detailed work in editing this book in spite of his tight time schedule. Thanks Peter, for improving my book. I also thank my son Shawn for his suggestions for corrections. I thank my son Robin for his wisdom and suggestion for choice of words.

I thank Susan Jarema of New Earth Marketing for pictures for this book and creating a beautiful website.

I thank my lawyer Larry for his amazing wisdom and for enabling me to win a favorable outcome in court. He is also the reason for my book.

I thank Dr. Monks (my family doctor) for his sound medical advice when I was going through a very difficult time at work because of unfounded criminal charges. Thank you, Dr. Monks, for your compassionate and sound professional advice preventing me from nervous breakdown and helping me to preserve my mental, physical, emotional and psychological health during those tough challenging days of assault charges based on perjuries.

I thank Pastor Jon for visiting my husband every day in the hospital during his major sickness to death. I thank Pastor Jon for his comforting emotional support and prayers for our family during those rough and sad days.

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I thank Pastor Sandeep, Pastor Sonny and all our friends at our home church, for their ongoing prayer support. I thank Pastor Murray for his guidance during New Christian's Bible Classes and leading us to baptism. I thank Pastor Murray and Carol for giving me a shoulder to cry when I got fired from STC. I thank Pastor Dan and all

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*Peace be with you*

***Prayer: I pray for all my family members, friends, helpers, supporters and prayer partners that God will keep them all in good health. I pray that God will fill them with Holy Spirt and help them to experience His amazing peace, love, joy and wisdom. When Job prayed for his friends, God blessed Job and give him double portion of blessings. I pray that God will bless all my family members, friends, all my brothers and sisters in Christ, all helpers and supporters with abundant prosperity, in the name of Jesus and by the authority of His blood. Amen!***

**Lord's Prayer:**

**Mathew 6: 9 to 13**

**9. After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed by thy name.**

**10. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven.**

**11. Give us this day our daily bread.**

**12. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.**

**13. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**Philippians: 6 to 7**

**Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God, which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.**

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# *One Blooming*

## LOTUS IN THE MIDST OF POISON



Written by Jasmine Ghala

Also the author of 'Overcoming the hurdles of life'

"The puppets and the puppeteers wanted to put me in the jail. Satan wanted me to shoot all the puppets and puppeteer. But God had a plan for me to write this book."

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