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MESSAGES FOR YOUTH

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**And they shall mock him,
and shall scourge him, ...
and shall kill him; and the third
day he shall rise again.
Mark 10:34**

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FELLOWSHIP IN VIRGINIA, USA.

Bro. Satish

Born into a Hindu family, I was a very devout practicing Hindu, until in 2001 my life changed when I was invited to attend meetings at one of our assemblies, and accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal savior on April 1st 2001. I was baptized the same year on July 1st. Right from the early days of my salvation, God gave me the privilege and opportunity to stay in the church compound and taught me in the ministry right from sweeping floors, laying mats, and arranging mikes to translation from English to Telugu and to sharing the word of God. With much joy, I would often go out to conduct Gospel meetings, distribute tracts, and witness boldly to my friends and relatives. After my marriage in the year 2004, I packed my suitcases and left to USA praying that God would use me and my wife for His glory according to His plan and purpose.

In USA we met a Gospel worker from University of Virginia who shared with us her burden for Indian students and the difficulty she faced in reaching out to them. She encouraged us saying, "Probably the Lord brought you to United States of America to reach out to the Indian students in the university here. Coming from Hindu religion, you can be a good witness and relate your born again experience to many of the Hindu students" These words kept ringing in our ears and we started praying about Lord's will as to how He wanted us to serve Him in Farifax, Virginia.

In my initial days in USA while I was waiting for a job, unlike my experience in Hyderabad where I would see a lot of people on the road and could distribute Gospel tracts, I could hardly notice people walking on the streets - just a lot of cars. God gave me the thought to prepare huge Gospel placards and I would stand by the road side holding the placards in both my hands so that people could read them as they drove by. But deep in my heart was a burden to meet people in person and share the Gospel with them.

In time, the Lord opened a door for me to secure a seat in George Mason University to do my Masters in Software Engineering. At that time, my wife and I had attended a Christian conference in Dallas, Texas where the Lord clearly spoke to us and gave us a calling to minister among the university students by saying "Our Lord commissioned us to go and preach the Gospel to the entire world, but the entire world is in your backyard", referring to the university

nearby our house with students from almost every country in the world, "Go and preach the Gospel to those students."

We then started asking the Lord to show us a plan and how to begin reaching out to the students as we hardly knew anyone. The Lord guided us by putting a special burden towards Indian students who often experienced cultural shock, home sickness, language barrier, and food differences. So the Lord guided us to cook Indian food and invite students to our home for a free meal and fellowship. We also extended practical help to the students by taking them to grocery stores, helping them in learning to drive cars, and above all showing a home away from home where they can come and share their joy and sorrows with us. In that process as the students would ask us why we are doing this to them, God gave us the opportunities to share about the love of our Lord Jesus Christ and that we are constrained by that love even to share the Good News of the Gospel. And as we shared the Gospel, the Lord gave us the joy of seeing these Hindu students kneeling down in confession and accepting Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior.

By now one semester had gone by and the Lord helped us make acquaintance with a few Christian students who could rent an apartment close to the college which then became our base for hosting these free meals every week. Agape House was the name given to the apartment and we started gathering for Bible studies to encourage the born again students in Faith. The Lord was very gracious in touching the hearts of these students and enlightened them with the Gospel and the Word of God.

After the students were born again, we noticed that they were not going to any church for worship and communion and those that went to church had no teachings on worship and breaking of bread. Then we were burdened by the Lord to gather on the Lord's Day for breaking bread and worship. After much prayer and taking the counsel of neighboring assemblies in New York, Philadelphia, and Chicago, God servants from India and from USA came and we broke bread on Dec 16 2007 and started gathering on every Lord's Day since then for worship and communion. The fellowship is named as Agape Church. I just wanted to share for the glory of the Lord that it all started out with 2 people who later became 6 in number and now altogether 60 of us gather to worship the Lord. Praise be to God and glory to His Holy Name! Please pray for the ministry here that the Lord would accomplish His plans and purposes in and through us in this area.

Fellowship in Virginia, USA

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