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All Things Work Together

Fanny Crosby - The Queen of Gospel Song Writers



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“ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER”

“All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.” Romans 8:28

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Greetings to you all in the life-saving name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

The good or bad, happiness or sorrow, prosperity or adversity are all part of life. Paul goes one step further, “All things work together for good to those who love God.”

This is one of the most blessed promises God has given; yet one of the most doubted and misunderstood one. You are not required to understand it but believe it. Act upon it make it a working principle in your life. This is the promise of God. Be grateful for what he has done or what he is doing. Let us stop doubting his promise and continue to thank him.

1. Restricted Promise: This promise is a restricted one; it does not apply to all but rather to them that love God and to them that are called. It is clear that it is the promise to the child of God and the child of God can, through faith turn God’s promise into a prophecy.

I do not know what the morrow holds but I know it will all “work for good” in the

deepest sorrow, hardest trial and greatest disappointment.

2. All Things: Not some things, most things, the pleasant things or the easy thing but “all things.” We usually have no difficulty in seeing this truth when all is going well for us but it includes the hard and bitter-tasting things of life as well as all things from the most minute to the most momentous, from the humblest event in daily providence to the crisis hour in grace.

The fact is that the hardest things to bear have in reality been the best for us. No sorrow leaves us where it found us, it rather drives us from God or being us. While Judas was driven to suicide, the remorse of Peter transferred the impulsive disciple into the ‘Rock.’ Let us look upon every time of sorrow and trouble as a turning point. We will come out of it either closer to God or far away from him.

God does not promise that our lives will always be pleasant, but he does declare that even the unpleasant things are part of this ‘all things.’ While in poor health some of us complain, but many spiritual victories we have ever won have been in times when God had laid us aside a while to commune with Him to learn the rich lesson.

The popular Methodist hymn, ‘Blessed Assurance’ was composed by Fanny J. Crosby. When she was only 6 weeks old, faulty treatment of an eye infection resulted in lifelong blindness. By age 8, having fought and won over discouragement, she wrote this poem. She seemed to forget that she was blind when she used the phrase

like “Visions of rapture burst on my sight.” Fanny Crosby dedicated her blindness to God and composed a number of Gospel Hymns. Her blindness was also a part of ‘all things.’

3. God is working: “All things work” notice it is in the present tense. They are working, not have worked. We often complain that we cannot see the result. We are much too inclined to measure things according to what we see. Is there a Christian who has not had some dark experience in life? Are we today in a place in life where it all seems too dark? Take hold of this blessed promise. Can’t we trust him in the dark? We don’t have to see to know that God is working for us. The sun will rise in the morning, the black clouds will roll away. We will see that God is working for us.

4. It works together: “All each work together” not separately, not each thing in itself but “together.” This is the key to the text. The separate events of life seem to be disastrous but “together” they work for good. It takes blending of the experience in life to make the “together.” When we are living in submission and obedience to His will, every event has definite place in the plan of God.

5. What’s the good: “All things work together for good” not for pleasure, comfort, prosperity, health or joy but for good. What is “the good”? It is the good of the Soul rather than the body, the good of the eternal rather than the present. It is a kind of a poverty that increases our eternal riches. Paul says he will “glory in his infirmities”(2 Cor 12:5).

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FANNY CROSBY

(The Queen of Gospel Song Writers)

“She was blind, but did not spend life in bitterness and defeat; instead dedicated her life for the cause of Christ.”

“It seemed intended by the blessed providence of God that I should be blind all my life, and I thank Him for the dispensation. If perfect earthly sight were offered me tomorrow I would not accept it. I might not have sung hymns to the praise of God if I had been distracted by the beautiful and interesting things around me.”

“When I get to heaven, the first face that shall ever gladden my sight will be that of my Saviour”

“Do not pity me that I am blind. It is because of my blindness that I came to know God and His purpose for my life”.

These are some of the immortal words of Frances Jane Crosby, popularly known as Fanny Crosby, the gospel hymn writer whose songs continue to touch and transform lives.

Some of Fanny Crosby's best known songs include 'Blessed Assurance Jesus is mine', 'I am Thine, O Lord', 'Pass me not, O Gentle Saviour', 'Praise Him, Praise Him', 'Rescue the Perishing', 'Safe in the Arms of Jesus', 'Jesus is Tenderly Calling You Home', 'To God Be the Glory', 'More Like Jesus Would I Be' and 'Jesus keep me Near the Cross.'

She wrote over 8000 songs and was known for her public speaking. During her lifetime Fanny Crosby was one of the best known women in the United States and was inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame in 1975. Many of the US Presidents knew Fanny personally and admired her for her songs.

Fanny was born in a poor family in the Putnam County in New York on May 24, 1820. As a six weeks old infant, Fanny developed inflammation of the eyes. As the family physician was out of town, a travelling doctor recommended the application of mustard poultice into the child's eyes to 'draw the infection out.' Instead, when the bandage was removed, white scar tissue was formed over her eyes and Fanny became blind for life.

Within a year, she lost her father John Crosby and her mother, Mercy Crosby, found work as a maid in a rich lady's house which kept her away for most part of the day. Grandmother Eunice Crosby took care of Fanny and taught her all about the world around her, describing her surroundings in detail. Eunice and Mercy's employer, Mrs. Hawley taught God's word to Fanny and helped her to memorize the Four Gospels, the Pentateuch, the Book of Proverbs, Psalms and Songs of Solomon before the age of 11.

Fanny went to the New York School for the Blind when she was 15 and became a teacher in that school after 12 years of study. She was one of the best teachers in the school, not only teaching the lessons but also teaching morals and being an example to the students.

Although Fanny had good knowledge about the Bible, it was not until the age of 30 that she had a personal encounter with the Lord in a revival meeting in a nearby Methodist Church. She later testified “my very soul was flooded with celestial light. I sprang to my feet shouting ***'Hallelujah'***”.

Alexander Van Alstyne, a visually challenged person, was a composer proficient on the piano and the cornet. He taught music and was an organist at a church in New York City. Fanny and Alexander knew each other in school, their friendship developed into love and they got married in 1858. Much to their grief, they lost their only child as an infant. Fanny felt like she could write no more, but Alexander encouraged her to continue.

Fanny and Alexander understood that God had a purpose for whatever happened; they clung to the certainty that God was in control. Although their income was very less, they were happy and content and set apart an amount for God's work.

Fanny was a speaker with the city rescue missions. Often she would ask God to direct her to the person with whom she could have a redemptive conversation. She did not believe in pointing out people's faults to them, saying: 'You can't save a man by telling him of his sins. He knows them already. Tell him there is pardon and love waiting for him. Win his confidence and make him understand that you believe in him, and never give him up.' She preferred the strategy of conversational evangelism to platform evangelism.

Fanny lived until she was almost 95 and went to see her Saviour face to face on February 12, 1915. At Fanny's request, her family erected a very small tombstone, which carried the words: '*Aunt Fanny: She hath done what she could; Fanny J. Crosby.*'

Submitted by Reuben Sathuri

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glorying in infirmities is more than submitting to them. No one can glory in affliction, but with faith we can see them by divinely appointed means. When we are made more Christ-like, we may gladly and humbly glory in them.

God's image was terribly defaced and marred by sin, so God redeemed us by the precious blood of Christ. And as we have borne the image of the earthly, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly (I Cor 15:49).

God's will is that every Christian might be conformed to the image of His Son. All things therefore work for the good to those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

Today the whole world is battling the deadly corona virus attack. Questions arise as to how this happened. Is it a curse from God in this 21st century, where man is so advanced in all areas of technology and medicine? Is it a man-made virus for biological warfare? This micro virus horrifies all the world's giant powers to quarantine for their life and safety.

Seeing the present situation, Romans 8:28 appears more relevant and reminds us, the people of God to confess our sins and our shortcomings according to II Chronicles 7:14, so that God may eradicate this virus pandemic and heal our land.

Rev Dr. Murphy W. Soans

Our prayers may be awkward and our attempts feeble; but since the power of Prayer is in the One who hears it and not the one who says, our prayers do make a difference.

Max Lucado

YOUTH FORUM

Testimony

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart.....” Jeremiah 1:5

My name is Anusha Ganachari and I am 18 years old. This is my testimony in the journey of faith. Although I was born in an orthodox Hindu priestly family, ever since my childhood, I have been raised in the Christian faith by my mother who had committed her life to Christ. I was surrounded by idol worship, but we had a small little room where my mother and I would read the Bible, pray and worship God everyday. This was our first home church and my mother was my first spiritual teacher. We have seen God’s protective hand all through our lives.

My journey in the Christian faith began after coming to St. Andrew’s Church. We found our spiritual family in the church and experienced true Christian love and fellowship here. Above all we have grown more stronger spiritually after coming to St. Andrew’s Church.

St. Andrew’s Church Sunday School laid the foundation of my spiritual life. My Sunday School teachers taught me the important values of life that has helped mold and shape my life. Sunday School taught me to develop relationship with God and with fellow brothers and sisters.

I took water baptism in Christian Fellowship Church by Pastor Soans on November 23, 2018, and exactly a month later was confirmed by the Bishop, Rt. Rev. R. Niranjan, at St. Andrew’s Church.

The Youth Fellowship leaders at St. Andrew’s Church provide us much needed support and guidance that helps us navigate through the most challenging part of our development. They help us to reach our full potential. In the Youth Fellowship we share our experiences, blessings and the knowledge of God for the edification of our spiritual friends. We accept and respect one another. We time to worship, study the word of God and pray in addition to playing biblical games and exercises.

God is blessing me and my mother in every aspect of life.

Ms. Anusha Ganachari

USE IT ONCE MORE:

A Pastor fresh from the Seminary came to his first church. During the first four weeks of his ministry, he had to conduct six marriages, eight funerals and other church activities, so he did not have time to prepare his regular Sunday sermons. Hence he used the sermon that he preached on the first Sunday for the remaining three weeks of the month. Upset over this the members of the Church Committee complained to the Bishop that this new Pastor had used the same sermon four times in a row.

The Bishop asked what the sermon was about. The Committee members scratched their heads, hemmed and hawed but they really could not remember.

The Bishop said, ***“let him use the sermon one more time.”***

ALMANAC FOR MAY 2020

Date/Day/Time	Nature of Service	Lessons	Reader	Preacher	
01 Friday	MAY DAY/LABOUR DAY Joseph the Carpenter	Genesis 1:26 – 2:3	II Thess 3: 6-15	John 5:1-10	
03 Sun 7.30 am 6.30 pm	3rd Sunday after Easter H.C. Service: Communion with the Risen Christ in Daily Life Evensong:	Exodus 40: 34- 38 Philippians 3: 8-16 Psalm 23 Luke 24:13-33	Mrs. S. Ruth Ramarao Mr. P.E. Johnson Mr. Clement M Chelli Elements Mr. & Mrs. C.M. Chelli	Parish Priest	
06 Wed	John, Apostle & Evangelist	Exodus 33: 18-23	1 John 1:1-4	John 21:20-25	
10 Sun. 7.30 am 6:30 pm	4th Sunday after Easter H. C. Service Believing in Christ – The Way Evensong:	Exodus 14: 10- 20 Acts 16: 19 - 34 Psalm 116 John 14: 1- 7	Mrs. Christina Tatpati Mrs. Shaila Birnur Mr. Raju Sahuri Elements Mr. & Mrs. P.E. Johnson	Parish Priest	
17 Sun. 7.30 am 6:30 pm	5th Sunday after Easter H. C. Service Mission as Sharing Christ's Peace PRAISE AND WORSHIP SERVICE	Micah 4: 1- 7 Philippians 4: 4- 9 Psalm 85 Luke 24: 36- 49 Genesis 33:1-11	Dr. Sarala Bolledu Mr. Mohan Kolhar Mrs. Edna Dharamshi Elements Mr. & Mrs. D. Mitta	Parish Priest YOUTH	
21 Thursday	Ascension of our Lord - Exalted Christ	Daniel 7: 9-14	Galatians 5: 22-26	John 14: 15-21	
24 Sun. 7.30 am 6:30 pm	6th Sunday after Easter H. C. Service: Promise of the Holy Spirit Evensong:	Joel 2: 28-32 Galatians 5:22-26 Psalm 42 John 14:15-21	Mrs. Rita Raj Mrs. Bharathi Ganachari Mr. Reuben Sathuri Elements Mr. & Mrs. Arthur James	Parish Priest	
31 Sun. 7.30 am 6.30 pm	PENTECOST SUNDAY H. C. Service Come Holy Spirit Transform the Whole Creation Evensong:	Ezekiel 36:24-36 Acts 2:1-13 Psalm 29 John 20:19-23	Mr. John Sureshkumar Mr. Jason Kamalkumar Mr. Mahendra Kumar Elements Mr. & Mrs. M Tatpati	Parish Priest	

BIRTHDAYS

1	Mrs. Jayashree John	19	Miss Shainna Eliz Nagulvaram
1	Mrs. Preethi Sachin	21	Mr. Ronald S. James
4	Mr. Samuel Clement Alice	24	Mr. Reuben James Sathuri
5	Mrs. Esther T. Lawrence	25	Mrs. Rita Raj
7	Mrs. S. Ruth Ramarao	25	Mrs. Ambika Kumar
11	Mr. Amit Samuel	26	Mr. Thomas V. Abraham
17	Dr. Sarala Bolledu	26	Mr. Richard Hublikar
17	Mrs. Victoria M. Dara	27	Mr. Morrison M Dara
17	Baby Jake S. Joseph	28	Mrs. Christilda Solomon Alice.
19	Mr. Mohan M. Kolhar	29	Mr. Justin Thomas
19	Master Yohan Rabi Abishai Joseph		

***Wishing You a day filled with Happiness and a Year filled with Joy.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!***

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

2	Mr. & Mrs. Mohan Joseph	26	Mr. & Mrs. Abhinay Nagulvaram
6	Mr. & Mrs. P.E. Johnson	26	Mr. & Mrs. Arthur James
9	Mr. & Mrs. Martin Tatpati	27	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Taylor
9	Mr. & Mrs. Lesley Birnur	27	Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Tatpati
16	Mr. & Mrs. Raju Sathuri	28	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas V. Abraham
20	Mr. & Mrs. K Dharamshi	22	Mrs. Bharathi Ganachari
20	Mr. & Mrs. J. Stevens		

***Wish You both endless Happiness, Joy and Love on your Anniversary and always.
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY !!!***

FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MAY 2020



***03/05/20 20 Mr & Mrs. Clement Chelli and family
10/05/2020 Mr & Mrs. P. E. Johnson and family
17/05/2020 Mr & Mrs. Devaprasad Mitta and fly
24/05/2020 Mr & Mrs. Arthur James and family
31/05/2020 Mr & Mrs. Martin Tatpati and family***

GUEST SPEAKERS IN MARCH



Pastor Soans



Pastor Stanley



Pastor Prabhakar



Pastor Daniel



Leslie Binur



Shalia Birnur



Ruben Sathuri



Sydney Gandhi



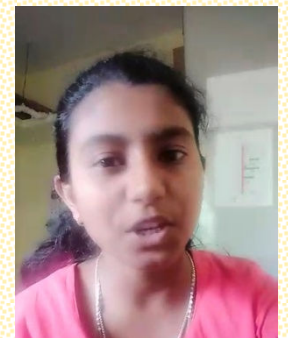
Franklin Benjamin



Gloria Franklin



Martina Bhasme



Anusha

NEWS

****We thank the Pastors, Guest Preachers and congregation members for sharing the word as well as online messages during Lenten meditation. We appreciate and acknowledge the efforts of Pastor and Mr. Sydney for bringing the Sunday Services and Wednesday Intercessory prayers to our homes while under lock down. Thanks also to Franklin, Gloria and other members of the singing team. We thank all the people who took part in the intercessory prayers.**

****Praise God for using Bro Franklin and Gloria to have regular Youth Meetings via Zoom. May their efforts bring rich dividends for His Kingdom.**

****There have been some queries from members regarding offerings and tithes. Kindly hold on to your offerings/tithes till the lock down is lifted. Arrangements will be made to receive the same directly to the bank if lock down is extended.**

****Newsletter will be sent out on Whatsapp. Printouts are not possible till lock down is relaxed. Newsletter is also available on our web site standrewschurchurchubli.org. Please inform your dear ones living abroad.**

****Gerald Thomas' family is blessed with a grandson. Pray for mother Jessy and father Ronson.**