

Chapter 1 : Thy Kingdom come “ BIBLE Students DAILY

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A critical mass of families built on such marriages is vital for societies to survive and flourish. That is why communities and nations generally have encouraged and protected marriage and the family as privileged institutions. It has never been just about the love and happiness of adults. Andersen Of the Seventy Sometimes in our homes, we successfully teach the dance steps but are not as successful in helping our family members to hear the music. Dancing without music is awkward and unfulfilling—even embarrassing. Have you ever tried it? We learn the dance steps with our minds, but we hear the music with our hearts. The dance steps of the gospel are the things we do; the music of the gospel is the joyful spiritual feeling that comes from the Holy Ghost. It brings a change of heart and is the source of all righteous desires. The dance steps require discipline, but the joy of the dance will only be experienced when we come to hear the music. The challenge for all of us who seek to teach the gospel is to expand the curriculum beyond just the dance steps. Renlund Of the Seventy God cares a lot more about who we are and who we are becoming than about who we once were. He cares that we keep on trying. In His mercy, God promises forgiveness when we repent and turn from wickedness—so much so that our sins will not even be mentioned to us. But that past wicked self is no longer who I am. No matter what, with His help, God expects Latter-day Saints to keep on trying. My invitation to all of us is to evaluate our lives, repent, and keep on trying. As we try, persevere, and help others do the same, we are true Latter-day Saints. Yet, thankfully, there are many who are uninfluenced by this perspective. They find relevance in seeking to be truly good and without guile. I have found them in all walks of life and in many faith traditions. And I find them in large numbers among the truly converted followers of Christ. I honor those who selflessly serve each week in wards and branches around the world by going above and beyond in fulfilling callings. But callings come and go. Even more impressive to me are the many who without formal callings find ways to consistently serve and lift others. Cook Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles If the grim realities you are facing at this time seem dark and heavy and almost unbearable, remember that in the soul-wrenching darkness of Gethsemane and the incomprehensible torture and pain of Calvary, the Savior accomplished the Atonement, which resolves the most terrible burdens that can occur in this life. He did it for you, and He did it for me. He did it because He loves us and because He obeys and loves His Father. We will be rescued from death—even from the depths of the sea. Our protections in this life and for eternity will be in individual and family righteousness, Church ordinances, and following the Savior. This is our refuge from the storm. For those who feel they are alone, you can stand resolutely in righteousness knowing that the Atonement will protect and bless you beyond your ability to fully understand. We should remember the Savior, keep our covenants, and follow the Son of God as the young sunflower follows the sunshine. Following His light and example will bring us joy, happiness, and peace.

Chapter 2 : Thy Kingdom Come - a Review

Thy Kingdom Come: A Dream for Easter Even () Santa Conversazione: An All Saints Miracle () The Holy night () The Happy Swan () Into the Void ().

It is very hard for me to believe that it has been only a year since the book came out. To me it felt like a thrill-ride with so many great things happening along the way. One of the things that makes me feel so happy is that because of the book I was able to interact with many great Sai devotees whom I once could only just dream of conversing with. So I went to the prayer room, closed my eyes and prayed to the Lord for direction. As I do on certain such occasions, grabbed a Sai book from the shelf and opened a random page to read a certain portion. My belief is that if the prayer is sincere, Swami will give a clue through the words in the book. Narayanan Kutty and among the words I read were "I had also seen with some devotees, things such as ring, bracelet, watch etc. I got the confirmation needed and decided to share this story. On why I took this as the confirmation, readers will come to know as the rest of the story unfolds. I had never written a book or a significant article before that and could not even dream of writing and publishing such a book. To me it stands as a testimony to the fact that when we leave everything to Him, anything is possible. Swami has clearly and often miraculously led me to all the materials that were needed. How it was completed in a matter of only three months is still beyond me and so it is to some readers, I have learnt. Coming back to my mental conflict about the author name, on further contemplation, I felt if I did not put any name as the author, readers could misinterpret that I was hiding behind my convictions. So I decided to take the middle ground and use a pen name "S. Thus the book was released with S. Narayan as the author. During the period when the book was being written I was interacting a lot with a Sai student we will call him SS for this article who is a close friend and like a brother to me. It was important for me to get his opinion on certain things since maya the usual enemy played its occasional tricks, leading me to doubt whether the Sai world would accept such a book, that too, close to a year after the Maha Samadhi. During our conversations, my friend used to mention a certain Sai devotee in Hyderabad we will call him HD whom he considered a mentor and as having direct interaction with Swami. He explained some mind-boggling miraculous stories which clearly showed that this person indeed received direct messages from Swami. I did believe my friend since I trusted his wisdom and discrimination but the stories gradually faded into the background of other discussions surrounding the book. My conviction was probably meant to be a silent and personal crusade and I questioned my own wisdom of dragging other devotees into it. I prayed hard to Swami for a confirmation that it was Him who brought forth this book. And confirm He did; that too with a thunderbolt of an incident. The moment I can never forget and can remember only with tears of joy rolling down my cheeks. This happened only a few days after the book had been released and much before it really started doing rounds in the Sai Circles. One morning SS calls me to say: Today HD Sir called and guess what he told me? He started narrating their conversation taken from memory. Sir, how did you know that he is my friend? No answer to the previous question Why did he not put his full name in the book? To my perplexed friend he continued. Swami asked me to convey the following. When I give gifts like rings or bracelets, devotees proudly wear them. That book is My gift to him. Ask him to proudly put his full name as the author". Upon hearing this I did not know how to react. Even now I have no words to describe the feelings that went through my mind at that moment. I did not want to ask anything further to my friend or gather minute details. I silently expressed my gratitude to my loving Lord and knew that I would never have to look back. Soon the book was published with my full name "Sreejith Narayan". The beautiful "gift" named "Sai, Thy Kingdom Come" that my dear Lord gave me on the previous Easter, was also re-affirmed in a dream He gave to my sister-in-law Milee who translated the book to Malayalam. She called me one day and explained her dream in which Swami said: Then a few days later, Swami again came in her dream and chided: I gifted it to him". In that dream Swami repeatedly mentioned the word "gift" as if to stress on that point. As to the question of why Swami did not give me the direct confirmation, I do not have a definite answer. But I do have some clues to that, which I will save for another post. As such, I am so happy to share this with all the readers. Thank you all for your love and wonderful support.

Chapter 3 : Church of the Resurrection

By Jullie Chaudhuri. The forty day period of Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter, when countless devout hearts spend their days praying to God, contemplating, overhauling the mindset and enhancing spiritual discipline.

On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us, not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, forever. If you are not in a small group, why not ask some of your friends if they are interested in joining you for this study? Interested in Joining the Church of the Resurrection? I hope to see you at Coffee! I have to tell you about it as the things that happened, beginning last Sunday, have been the culmination of six years of work and the sacrifices of so many of you. We had people in that service last weekend, including a number of first time visitors. I was in the new service to kick it off and to consecrate the altar, the font and the pulpit. It was very exciting, and the room was perfect for this service. I turned around as Cory and the band were leading the first song "it was very powerful" and then I ran down the hall that connects the Foundry to the Sanctuary and walked in the main doors of the Sanctuary to hear the choir, orchestra and 2, congregants singing and it, too, was very powerful. I just stood there for a moment and took this in: By the way, at both 9: This time last year families would have to drop their kids off in KiDSCOR then walk outside and cover three football fields to get to their Sunday School classes. This is such a huge difference. Have an interest in joining a new Sunday School class? Awesome new classrooms were opened along with a terrific student fellowship area, reception area and expanded reference library. Stop in and take a look at the changes. There was such excitement among the students and faculty. Saint Paul conducted their own capital campaign for the renovations, but our 10, Reasons and Finishing What We Started campaigns made it possible to dedicate this space to the seminary. Congrats to Resurrection youth staff member Nick Kaufmann, who is the student body president this year. I had an apple, bacon, fig flatbread that was amazing, and I tried a taste of the pesto panini, which was also terrific. Chef Tony prepares these salads, flatbreads and sandwiches in our new kitchen. Stop by and check out the delicious new food offerings. Again, part of the reason we built the sanctuary was to free up the old sanctuary to become our fellowship hall where we could increase the number of people able to be a part of Care Night. It was awesome to see the room filled with people breaking bread and coming together to encourage and care for one another. The idea is to offer an inexpensive meal for families and friends to eat together, and then to offer awesome programming for all ages. Next week the meal is pancakes and sausage! I love breakfast for dinner! Six Keys to a Successful Marriage. This will be a fun, inspiring and practical class on improving your marriage. Participants will be at tables with people from about your same age and stage in life "married with young children, married with teens, and empty nesters. This is a very important opportunity to serve as you not only bless children, but you also help their parents grow in their faith. During this series on marriage, you are helping produce stronger families. Here was the conclusion to that speech: We choose to go to the Moon! We choose to go to the Moon in this decade! not because [it is] easy, but because [it is] hard; because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills. This will be fun and inspiring and will provide critical input as we start to hone in on where God is leading us in the next twelve years. The meetings will be: Tuesday, September 4, from 6: Inventory of all blood types is low as we approach the last holiday of the summer, a time when demand for blood spikes because of increased travel. You can be part of the solution. The Blood Drive is typically busiest from pm. One pint can help save two lives! Volunteers are needed also. While there, join the bone marrow registry. A simple swab of the cheek is all it takes. Volunteers are asked to serve one fixed and assigned service per month during the worship hour of their choice, if a spot is available. Currently, we need new members for all services including Foundry. If you are interested in joining this important ministry or would like more information, please contact Ritch Richardson , our coordinator for CART. The plan was approved unanimously by the people in attendance! It was very exciting. Building buildings is never our goal, but buildings and parking lots! Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. They have

two daughters and one granddaughter.

Chapter 4 : Thy Kingdom Come | Valley View Community Church

Sai Thy Kingdom Come - The Reappearance of Sri Sathya Sai Baba - The joy of finding Motherly Love Sai Thy Kingdom Come, A deliberation on the possibility of Sri Sathya Sai Baba's "Return" Sai, Thy Kingdom Come shared Sai, Thy Kingdom Come 's post.

Jesus First, let us look at the most familiar name, Jesus. Later, this name assumed the form Jeshua sometimes pronounced Yeshua , from which came the Greek form Jesus. In the Old Testament El refers not only to God, but also to mighty men of earth. Here is a list of text containing the Hebrew word El for your consideration with a link for each from the Strongs Concordance: And so he is, for to him the Father has given all power in earth and heavenâ€™ Matt. They are one in mind, purpose, etc. Does any one ask further proof of a distinction of persons? Bible dictionaries say that the first part of that name, Immanu, means with us. Thus, the entire name means God is with us. Indeed, God was with mankind in that He turned His favor toward mankind when he gave us his only begotten son to be Jesusâ€™the savior of the world. Since both names, Jesus and Immanuel, convey the thought of God sending his son Jesus to be the savior of the world, what is the deeper meaning of the name Jesusâ€™which the son of man was to be named by Joseph? Let us first explain what the Bible says is the punishment for sin. It is simply death. The Bible answers in Romans 6: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: This scripture explains to us that death is unescapable. Right from birth, humans inherited the penalty God imposed upon Adam, and that is why everyone dies. The good news of salvation is all about being saved from death. What are we saved to, and how? The Bible answers in the following way. They can be freed from condemnation because Jesus provided the price of release by accepting the penalty upon himself. Mankind may thus be freed from condemnation, and released from death in a resurrection. Those who come into Christ presently are released from condemnation now. It is God that justifieth. It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Now the deeper meaning of the name Jesus is clear: Jesus is the savior of the world because by his ransom sacrifice he saved mankind from death, to a resurrection to life. We also gain a correct understanding of the nature of man, specifically that he is mortal human flesh, and does not have an immortal soul. For if man had an immortal soul that could not die, then there would be no need for the resurrection of the dead, which is so clearly taught in the Bible. Let us answer that question by considering the five names of Jesus found in Isaiah 9: When it is, all mankind will say, this is the government we have always wanted, but never had. This promised government, this kingdom, was the most frequent topic Jesus preached about, during his three and a half year ministry on earth. When Jesus taught his disciples, and us, how to pray in the model prayer, He included these words. In the context, Jesus stood before Pontius Pilate to answer the charge that claimed Jesus had committed treason against Caesar by claiming to be King of the Jews, which if true would be punishable by death, hence why Pilate put the question directly to Jesus in John At first reading, it might be thought that Jesus is saying, I am indeed a king, but my kingdom is not of this world, this planet, this earth; my kingdom is in heaven. But that is not what Jesus is saying. A closer examination of the names of Jesus helps us gain a deeper understanding of his life and work. When Jesus said, my kingdom is not of this kosmos, he was as if saying, I am not establishing my kingdom now; it is not of this present order, but there is a new world order coming. And when it does, that new world order, that new social order, that new kosmos, will be my kingdom, here on earth. That is not what this means. In fact, Ecclesiastes 1: We do so by recognizing that 2 Peter 3: Here the Greek word for elements is stoicheion, which, like that other Greek word, kosmos, means an orderly arrangement. It is describing the end of the old social order of things in this present evil world, not the end of the planet. Coming back to the names of Jesus in Isaiah 9: As the Heavenly, Divine Being he became after his own resurrection, he will have all the power necessary not only to resurrect mankind, but also to bring to pass justice and righteousness for everyone. All the world of mankind, resurrected on the human plane, will obtain their right to everlasting life as human beings in an earthly Paradise from their Redeemer, who will then be their King. However, true peace will speedily be established and he shall be known as The Prince of Peace, whose reign will be undisputed and uncontested. Combining all

these names and the future works they reveal to us, his name will be Wonderful—the one who will be recognized by all as the embodiment, the expression, of Divine Justice, Love, Wisdom, and Power. Christ A Bible dictionary gives the following definition for the name Christ: An ordinary dictionary says that Christ comes from the Latin *Christus*, which in turn comes from the Greek *Khristos*, which means anointed. Thus, the name Christ carries the thought of, anointed. We can understand that because we have a few English words derived from Christ which convey the idea of anointing. We speak of babies and even ships being christened, with some ceremonious application of a liquid in the manner of anointing. What, then, is the deeper significance of this name of Jesus, Anointed, or the Anointed One? In Old Testament times, a special anointing oil was prepared according to a formula given by God Himself in Exodus chapter This anointing signified that the ones being anointed were authorized to serve as priests. This holy anointing oil was so restricted in its usage, that if anyone used the holy anointing oil for any other purpose, or if anyone concocted an oil like the holy anointing oil, they were to be put to death Exodus We can think of these words anointing, or anointed, as an Old Testament equivalent of what we commonly see today when a president, or governor, or other high official, is sworn into office by placing his hand on a Bible and taking the oath of office administered by a judge or other official. We now see that this term, Christ, defined as anointed, has a deeper meaning of authorized by God Himself to serve in the capacity or office given to them. As mentioned before while discussing the name Christ, persons who were anointed had been appointed and given authority for specific offices and tasks given to them. Jews in general do not believe that Jesus Christ is their long awaited Messiah. But when they see the establishment of his kingdom and how it meets and exceeds their grandest expectations, they will. The restitution, or restoration, of all things means to restore mankind, and the earth, to the perfection Adam and Eve enjoyed in the Garden of Eden. The presence of Christ is referred to by the word *parousia* in the New Testament, in scriptures such as Matthew If they are obedient they will live—if they are disobedient they will not. In that future test, mankind will have the enormous advantage of their past experience with sin and its consequences, that will enable them to choose life through obedience, and pass the test. Christ, Revisited Let us now consider our key scripture, Colossians 1: Is not this thought incredible! The following Scriptures support this: Why is it taking so long for the Kingdom Jesus taught us to pray for, to come? Why is it taking Jesus so long to establish his kingdom and do all the things his names imply? Here is the answer: Before the general resurrection and earthly salvation can begin, the first resurrection to the heavenly salvation must be complete. In the name Jesus we see his work of salvation, from death to life, which the doctrine of the Ransom teaches us about. In the names Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting father, the Prince of Peace, we see when that due time when that Ransom will have its fullest effect. In the name Messiah we see the return of Jesus when the spiritual phase of the restitution period begins, after which time shall commence the process of resurrecting, teaching, and guiding mankind back to the perfection enjoyed by Adam and Eve before sin entered the world. Since restitution means to restore to a previous state or condition, here mankind shall be restored to perfect bodies, perfect minds, and perfect characters. After that restitution work is complete, everyone in that kingdom will be equipped and ready to pass the test that Adam failed: But this time mankind will have the enormous advantage of experience with sin and its consequences, which will enable them to choose life through obedience, and live. In the name Christ, which means anointed and is the New Testament equivalent of the Old Testament word Messiah, we see Jesus, authorized by God to be our Savior and to accomplish all things required for the salvation of mankind. These footstep followers will have a first resurrection in heaven, following which will come a resurrection for the remainder of mankind on earth. This is the key doctrine of the two salvations. We have seen that there is no Hell of torment, and that man does not have an immortal soul.

Chapter 5 : Thy Kingdom Come - Heavitree Parish

So, I would like to freely talk about "Sai, Thy Kingdom Come" in a Sai Center, but there is people who would never accept "Samastha Loka" instead of "Loka Samastha" before Swami said it, would never accept His anticipated departure before it happened, and now will not accept His glorious return before it happens.

January 26, Randall Balmer. What does it mean to be an evangelical today? That is a difficult question to answer, but it is a question with an important political side to it. Where a century ago Fundamentalists and religious conservatives stood on the margins while socially progressive Mainline Protestants took center stage, over the last three decades the conservative religious movement has taken center stage, crowning as president first Ronald Reagan and then George W. But, has this ascendancy been good for the evangelical movement or the nation as a whole? Randy Balmer, a Columbia University religious history professor and chronicler of the Evangelical movement says absolutely not. His book, *Thy Kingdom Come* is a pointedly written rejoinder to those who would claim the nation for Jesus through politics. I must mention that I met Randy many years ago at a Church History annual meeting. This is a book written by one who self-describes as an evangelical, but he is by any measure a liberal one -- and so I identify closely with him as he writes. In part this is a recounting of the merger of interests between the Religious Right, the Republican Party, and evangelicalism. In his account evangelicalism is not political and is not incompatible therefore with a liberal or progressive perspective. His definition of an evangelical is this: An evangelical 1 takes the Bible seriously, 2 believes in the importance of conversion, and 3 "recognizes the imperative to spread the faith , or to evangelize. This is a very broad definition, one which many progressives can affirm. The book begins in chapter 1 with an account of how the Religious Right has constructed a political agenda focused on abortion and homosexuality that is rooted in a "selective literalism. From there he moves on to the politicization of the Baptist tradition, one that has American roots in the separationist views of Roger Williams. Moving further into the controversy, Balmer takes up the "War on Public Education," and here he examines school vouchers, homeschooling, and the challenge of this separatism to the democratizing effect of public education. Though Balmer at times romanticizes the historical effect of this movement, he also recognizes the challenges of the current system. Still, he is on the right track in pointing out that in our pluralistic nation, public education can provide an important opportunity to bring people of differing ethnic, political, and religious backgrounds together. In his chapter on Creationism -- "Creationism by Design" -- Balmer helpfully clarifies the primary goal of this movement -- the ID movement -- and that is intellectual legitimacy. Though a theistic evolutionist, Balmer has no problem with people learning creationism, he just thinks it belongs in Sunday School and not the biology class. The chapter offers a succinct history of the Creationist and Intelligent Design Movements -- demonstrating that it is more philosophy than science. Especially important is the discussion of Phillip Johnson, whom he calls the "intellectual godfather" of this movement. Once again, Balmer warns against the merger of religion and institutional life, whether political or academic. It is in his chapter on evangelicals and the Environment that Balmer demonstrates the insidious and dangerous liaison between the political conservatives and religious conservatives. The good news here is that a growing number of evangelicals, especially young ones, are discovering that there is another way to look at Genesis 1, a way that calls for stewardship not rapacious utilization of resources. In his conclusion he offers a speech at Wheaton College he believes he will never get to delivery. It is a fiery rebuttal to the Religious Right, pointedly naming names and sins and calling for repentance. It is also a call to step back from power and embrace humility and tolerance as the American ideal. It is a warning not just to evangelicals, however, for we progressives who have been in the wilderness may be hungering too much for a return to power. This is an important book written by a historian who has been traveling for years among the Evangelical subculture. He claims the tradition for himself, but in this book, which is full of anecdotes as well as documented quotes from written materials, the dark side emerges with great clarity. It is a relatively quick read, and a book that deserves to be widely read.

Chapter 6 : "THY Kingdom Come" " Evangelicals Concerned Inc.

Sai Thy Kingdom Come, Reappearance of Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Please note: Even though the word "resurrection" has had a wonderful dream on Swami's Reappearance.

Experiences and Musings Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba has been extremely kind and loving in giving me the chance of being a student in His Institute and hopefully for life too. I would like to share personal experiences with Swami and thoughts that He has inspired via many episodes through this blog. When that happened, there was widespread disbelief among the devotees. How then, could He leave at 85? It presented evidence from the various scriptures, Nadis and the like while proposing a second coming. I must say, it felt really wonderful reading the same. However, whenever I read, heard or came to know about different accounts regarding His second coming, a voice from within kept persistently throwing up a single statement which Bhagawan often made - a statement so poignant and profound that one could meditate for long just on it. One of those, I firmly believe, is to prod us to start listening to and understanding His silence. Are those things really present in the Vedic texts? It was not the case of checking whether what Swami spoke was the truth or not for His speech defined the Truth. His first name, Sathya, means Truth and the Universe realigns itself to follow His every utterance. I am not disregarding even slightly the words spoken by Swami. What I am pondering is simply about our ability to understand those words. There is the story of a sage undertaking a penance for centuries in an attempt to understand the Vedas. At the end of it, he realizes that if the Vedas were the four mountains, his understanding has been equivalent to a grain of sand! These are metaphorical stories to indicate that when it comes to divinity, the intellect and the mind are grossly inadequate in imparting an understanding. That understanding lies in the realm which is beyond the mind and the intellect. The debate here is not about what Bhagawan said, but of our understanding of what He said. When the scene of Shirdi Baba leaving the body for three days came, Swami went into the interview room. My tomb will be in the place where I currently sit and I too will speak from the Tomb like Shirdi Baba. Swami seemed pleased with the response but gave no assurance of the same. In the same vein, though not directly related to the current story, Swami revealed to the same Harish something profound in early , weeks before He left the physical. Swami expressed a deep sense of anxiety that His students especially would leave Prasanthi Nilayam when He sheds His body. Stating that, Swami got very upset and apparently agitated. Every brick in the mandir is filled with His Love. He has built everything Himself shedding His sweat. My experiences have shown me that dreams of Swami are true. In the dream, I grasped a few things that the doctor was telling Swami. Though the dream was very clear, I did not understand what it meant. Though Swami had indicated what was to happen more than a year in advance, I understood its import only when the right time came. I could neither interpret what was going to happen, nor take precautionary steps in any way to prevent that from happening in the February of . What they predict is always understood after the event. The predictions are of no use in understanding or influencing what is going to happen in any way! It is always a retrospective view. Take the case of the prediction of the Advent itself. If people accepted what the Nadi said or what Mehdi Moud said or Nostradamus prophesies revealed about the advent of Baba on earth, why did they not believe in Him till He Himself established His divinity beyond doubt? It was only after being convinced of His divinity that people understood and accepted what the scriptures said. It was more a case of Swami lending credibility to the Nadi and other scriptures rather than the other way around! I have recorded an instance where Swami made certain revelations in my dream which manifested a year later. But it was only after they had manifested that I understood what the dream meant. It also shows us that though we clearly understand the meaning of things that are revealed, we truly understand them ONLY at the right time. This is the dream I had it on the 17th of January, He seemed quite sad and so I told Him that He should not feel so bad or sad. This much I am able to remember that it was something which I did not have a lot of and I wondered how the little I had would help Swami. All that is mine is yours. I have to go. But since You are feeling bad, I am not showing my emotions. And so, once again, though the Truth was revealed, it was not understood before the right time - the 24th of April in this case. The same holds true for the second coming as well. A dream about the second coming Regarding the second coming, I too had a

significant dream. But frankly, I feel its complete meaning will unfold only when the right time comes. Here is the dream anyway. This was on the 4th of March, I had been called for an interview along with another lad. We were waiting for Swami to call us into the interview room. We stood at the the ladies side end of the mandir where the ladies would usually wait for interviews. A large mirror had been placed at the backside of the Ganesha statue and in it, I could see the reflection of the interview room door. Swami was bustling with activity, going in and out of the interview room. He beckoned to us. I went and as I turned towards the interview room, I saw that a cot had been placed next to the door. Swami asked for one more person to support Him similarly on His left. My partner felt overwhelmed with this asking and just sat down in the portico. I went ahead thinking that if Swami wants anything done, He would also give the strength to complete the same. I eagerly told Swami that I would help. I sat next to Swami and held Him the same way as the other student. Then, we were making Swami do sit-ups! Even as that was on, I had tears in my eyes and a smile on my face. Swami looked at me and asked me the reason for the expression. But now, the whole world saw your burial on national television. And after that, you are sitting here! What greater miracle could one ask for Everything has changed but Nothing has changed I know that my Lord has not left me. He is always there. I know that He is working a miracle in manner in which none of us can even imagine, let alone trying to understand. My job is to simply wait - give Him the Shraddha faith and Saburi perseverance that He asked for in the Shirdi form. Except for me missing the physical form now and then, nothing has changed. He still guides, counsels, jokes and speaks to me in ways that I never thought possible. I shall possibly record just one example of this here. Something had upset my wife, Pooja. Naturally, it affected me too. We decided to offer everything to Him. Thus it was, that we decided to read the Prayer of Surrender. This prayer, written by Swami in a letter to a devotee makes us achieve a state of surrender by simply reading it with a calm mind! To see that original letter, head over to the dialogue on surrender. But it is so comforting and powerful that I have framed it in my altar and I read it frequently. Here is what happened. At the same time, my father entered the room with silver lamps to be kept in the altar. It was hardly seconds when he called out to me. Swami is with us always. I was reading the story of Jesus Christ and his resurrection on Easter Sunday. You know something startling? When Jesus Christ resurrected, not everyone saw him! Is that not happening with our Swami already? You know what is the next line of the same prayer? That is why, I shall not try to understand. I shall only strengthen my faith and wait In the meanwhile, I might as well enjoy His divine drama as I wait! A note of caution from Swami After Bhagawan left the physical, there have been several claims from different people that Swami speaks through them, acts through them and even "possesses" them. People often wonder about the veracity and authenticity of such claims.

Chapter 7 : Thy Kingdom Come. | LiveForgiven

Sairam and Happy Easter to all readers. It was on the Easter day of that the first edition of "Sai Thy Kingdom Come" was released. It is very hard for me to believe that it has been only a year since the book came out.

Email The thought of His coming stirs my soul. It will be breathtaking! The scope and grandeur, the vastness and magnificence, will exceed anything mortal eyes have ever seen or experienced. As we were singing, I was deeply moved with the thought that at this very moment hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions, of believing Saints in more than countries, amazingly in 75 different languages, 1 together we were raising our voices to God, singing: Come, O thou King of Kings! We have taken His name upon us, and each week as we partake of the sacrament, we pledge that we will remember Him and keep His commandments. We are far from perfect, but we are not casual in our faith. We believe in Him. We deeply love Him. His cause is the greatest cause in all the world. We live in days of wars and rumors of wars, days of natural disasters, days when the world is pulled by confusion and commotion. The difficulties of some are more severe than those of others, but no one is immune. Monson taught me an important lesson about keeping an eternal point of view. Eighteen years ago while traveling on a train in Switzerland with President Monson, I asked him about his heavy responsibilities. His response strengthened my faith. He is at the helm. We marvel as we watch Him open doors we cannot open and perform miracles we can scarcely imagine. Under the direction of His Father, He created this world. Let me share an example. Only a few decades ago, who could have imagined temples in Haiti, Thailand, and the Ivory Coast? The location of a temple is not a convenient geographical decision. It comes by revelation from the Lord to His prophet, signifying a great work to be done and acknowledging the righteousness of the Saints who will treasure and care for His house through generations. Monson only 30 years earlier. None of us will ever forget the devastating Haitian earthquake of With faithful members and a courageous band of missionaries made up almost exclusively of Haitians, the Church in this island nation has continued to grow and strengthen. Who could imagine a house of the Lord in the beautiful city of Bangkok? Christians are only 1 percent of this principally Buddhist country. As in Haiti we also find in Bangkok that the Lord has gathered the elect of the earth. While there a few months ago, we met Sathit and Juthamas Kaivaivatana and their devoted children. Sathit joined the Church when he was 17 and served a mission in his native land. Later he met Juthamas at the institute, and they were sealed in the Manila Philippines Temple. In the Kaivaivatanas were hit by a truck whose driver had fallen asleep, and Sathit was paralyzed from his chest down. Their faith has never wavered. Sathit is an admired teacher at the International School Bangkok. He serves as the stake president of the Thailand Bangkok North Stake. The miracle of the Church in the Ivory Coast cannot be told without the names of two couples: They joined the Church as young married couples, one in Germany and one in France. In the s, Philippe and Lucien felt drawn back to their native African country for the purpose of building the kingdom of God. For Sister Assard, who is German, to leave her family and allow Brother Assard to leave his work as an accomplished mechanical engineer required unusual faith. The two couples met each other for the first time in the Ivory Coast and started a Sunday School. That was 30 years ago. There are now eight stakes and 27, members in this beautiful African country. The Affoues continue to serve nobly as do the Assards, who recently completed a mission to the Accra Ghana Temple. Can you see the hand of God moving His work forward? Can you see the hand of God in the lives of the missionaries in Haiti or the Kaivaivatanas in Thailand? Can you see the hand of God in the lives of the Assards and the Affoues? Can you see the hand of God in your own life?

Chapter 8 : Thy Kingdom Come | FAITH MATTERS

Thy Kingdom Come is a simple invitation to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for friends and family to come to faith. Now in its third year, participation has grown every year. In - , Christians pledged to pray.

Instead of what we might assume befits a wannabe president, we get mere precedent and more prestidigitation. Dirty card tricks of class, sex, gender, faith, ethnicity and race! Well, what else do most folks know to do? As he puts it: In the prayer Jesus authorized for us, we petition: Thus, rather than rationality, politicians give us rationalizations; instead of substance, mere style. Instead of candor and clarity, its camouflage, cover-ups and threats of chaos at conventions. We have mob violence, criminal investigations, scams, scandals and assassination musings. One candidate was depicted as a big cock. Oh, wait, that was in , a jab at Jefferson and his mistress, shown as a little black hen. Then he dropped out of the race. Nostalgia and Fantasy keep playing us for fools. Politics has been nasty business from the start, as has so much else, going all the way back to Eden – enmity between the sexes, sibling rivalry, intra- and inter-family feuds, intertribal terrorism, et al. Yet, our Founders did fight for a revolution worth their struggle. They meant to create the greatest land for liberty in human history. And they well knew that their intended outcome was not inevitable. Still, they came closer to their goal than was likely. Ellis But building on their foundations, later generations finally did free the slaves and did grant full citizenship to women and blacks. At the close of the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia in , a woman came up to Ben Franklin and asked: He was savvy to the multiple obstacles to preserving, on our own, this experiment in self-governance. Since none of us resists our own self-centeredness and self-righteousness any better than we do, why in this world would we expect any presidential candidate or a sitting president to resist such temptations any better than we do? No wonder outliers barged in! Totalitarian regimes deliberately mislabel themselves as, e. No dissent, millions enslaved and imprisoned, mandated abortions and enforced organ harvesting, torture, starvation and summary execution! This deceptive misuse of terms reveals in itself, a calculated abuse of the human hunger for freedom. Chesterton would later warn of the same disaster: Teamwork for the welfare of all. And mandated micro-aggression awareness that retaliates with macro-aggression against all the alleged micro-aggressors is equally counterproductive. These so-called remedies fuel hypersensitivity, disempowering the self-offended from effectively dealing with their own thoughts that prompt their unwanted feelings. The very same line was used for the title of a famously pro-gay and prison reform play, produced over a quarter century before the birth of these narrow focused, thin-skinned Yale students. David Rothenberg was the producer. He founded The Fortune Society for the rights of prisoners and for their re-entry success after their incarceration. He named it, so appropriately, with that Shakespearean line. Addressing graduates at the University of Michigan, Mike Bloomberg nailed it: Addressing the Rutgers graduates, President Obama hit that same necessary note. Kennedy called all of us to a renewed commitment to our common cause: Ask what you can do for your country. Nonetheless, those three men managed their self-centeredness, treachery and altruism so as to work together for racial justice in that explosive era in which self-centeredness was no less defensive, divisive, destructive and deadly than today. Is politics simply cynical? Well, cynicism is as sincere as the fear that prompts it. A politician can afford to write, but only anonymously: But, what the hell? My main job is to keep my job. Voters readily lap up the lies and spin of their choice, fearing outcomes of danger and coveting outcomes of delight. We try to make things go our way since we fantasize they must go our way. So, candidates and voters, too, hold themselves hostage to fantasies and then frighten and frustrate themselves. Then, they too, try to get on top of these unwanted feelings by getting hostile. Seeing their bravado for what it is, they fear, irrationally, that the voters too see through it, so their fears are fueled. This is the thin-skinned underside of arrogance and narcissism – so frequently on display in politicians. These days, only 27 percent of likely voters say the country is headed in the right direction. When Kennedy won, I telegraphed my congratulations. This got me into trouble at the seminary. See, JFK was a Catholic. This ruckus reminded me of my getting into even more trouble for speaking up for Billy Graham in my first semester at Bob Jones University. Right after lunch, I was told to go immediately to the Administration Building where I was escorted upstairs to the office of the Dean of Men. Overweight and with

his neck veins bulging and his face getting redder every second, he berated me loudly and at length for my audacity as a mere teenager to think I knew more than he did about evangelistic crusades. No totalitarian regime can afford to tolerate free speech or diversity of opinion. My earliest church experience was in the nominal, blandly civil religion of s Mainline Protestantism â€”the hazy hangover of earlier Modernist theology. Nonetheless, I heard the clear Gospel from my Sunday-School teacher and over the radio. What an odd name for a college, I thought. But I liked what I read. After two good years of classwork, Shakespearean productions and Grand Opera, Bible conferences, a mock presidential convention Ike vs. Adlai and friendship that extends to the present day, I transferred, as per prior agreement with my dad, to Bowling Green State University in our home state of Ohio, graduating in Adams, home missions head for what would evolve into the PCA. While finishing at BGSU, I helped members of our increasingly liberal Mainline Presbyterian Church to find an evangelical Presbyterian denomination with which to affiliate. After a year in chaplaincy at PSU, during which I continued to advocate for gay rights, I stayed on in the Graduate School to do my dissertation on homosexuality. My professors were not all that comfortable with my affirmative position on homosexuality since it would not be until that the American Psychiatric Association would drop its mental disorder classification on homosexuality. From the diversity of my secular and religious education since the mids and my work experience as well as from my time in various churches, I can attest that, in all of these situations, there was quite an inadequate grasp, even caricaturing, of all the others. And the antagonism was often so very petty, yet so preoccupying. But always, the dogmatism was too defensive, the self-righteousness, too brittle. It all smacked of insecurity motivated by fear, moved to frustration and handled with hostility. Genuine tolerance of any real viewpoint variation was missing. With so much dogmatic defensiveness, there was so little depth of understanding and so little ability to identify with others. Today, although there are some surface changes and approved and disapproved views do come and go, real tolerance of any unpopular view is every bit as absent. And whether on the Left or the Right, self-righteousness is impotent for reaching true righteousness. In , the year before he died, C. The Gospel is something completely different. And it still is, of course. Bruce, Helmut Thielicke and other evangelical scholars would make the same point. The feet of those who will remove it are already at the door. To think or hope otherwise is delusional and sets us up for unreasonable expectations leading to predictable disappointments, fear, frustration and hostility and hate. At a Spiritual Progressives meeting a decade ago, Tony Campolo cautioned attendees: In , John Alexander, a founding editor of the progressive evangelical journal, *The Other Side*, wrote me to say: Partly it is simply that now â€” I have little contact with gays and not as much with radical Christians who are open on this issue, and I fear I forget about its importance till I get back in touch with the people who are on the wrong end of this argument. It is partly you; I was very pleased by both your presentations â€” your call to a broader faith than gay-is-OK is vital. Certainly you have every reason in the world to be obsessed by gayness to the exclusion of everything else, but you have refused to let that happen. Why else would this self-serving slogan be used repeatedly for polar opposite purposes, as on issues of racial justice, by, e. Later, facing mounting scientific evidence, Southern Baptists changed their minds and repented. Finally this year, facing even more scientific evidence, the Methodists changed their minds on abortion. To freeze-frame our own time and place is utter folly. By the way, have you seen the prediction that, by , myopia will be a crisis in half the world? The entire world has suffered shortsightedness for ages. And this trio is not the three witnesses Paul had in mind for the confirmation of fact. Since Eden, humanity has suffered the claustrophobia of nearsightedness, caught up in navel-gazing, the fixation of Adam and Eve â€” even without navels of their own. Freud, too, was a latecomer in discovering pleasure as our primordial desire. He dubbed it id. And Homer was also a latecomer, viewing idols as images in our mirrors. Long before those three, Adam and Eve found out the hard way how fatal was a will to postured power, the envying of the allure of only apparent pleasure and the idolizing of a bogus, alter ego. Id, idol, identity group, iPhones, iPads, et al.?

Chapter 9 : The Shorter Prayer Book

Prayer: "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." For further reference: "I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people" (See Jeremiah).

A dream awaits its destiny Published on 06 November What would a Sai devotee have inferred if he or she had a dream in about Bhagawan leaving His body? Well, I do not know about others, but I certainly would have thought of it as an event to happen twelve years later. But one man who had such a dream, did not think like most others would have. He felt that such an event was drawing near, much earlier than anybody would expect. Not willing to stop there, he went on to believe that Swami would eventually come back, shaking the whole humanity to its core. Evidently, he had his own reasons to believe so! Neelen Patten is a Sai devotee from Mauritius. On 27th January , Neelen woke up from a strange dream. In the dream he saw Baba leaving His body. As soon as he woke up, very early in the morning, he wrote an email to a few friends about the dream edited to remove lines not relevant to the topic: I just woke up from a very strange dream And I am telling it now itself, because I know I need to make an effort to remember it! Did I dream that Baba had died Or that He had died from something I even saw Him in his death bed from above I could see the scene very clearly!! After this, people around were even more skeptical about Baba, and my brother told us that we should not expect anything from Him if He just died like this, suddenly without giving any notice I replied that he would come back and this is what would wake all humanity from their delusions When He comes back, I said, it will be such a shock for the whole of humanity. This is how the whole of humanity will believe in Him This is what I told my brother at the end of this dream! This is a very strange dream indeed I know we never dream of Swami without a good reason! Let us see then! And then on Thursday, April 21, , 6: I did have a very strange dream where I saw Swami passing away It really shocked me when I woke up from this To tell you honestly, I have the feeling that Baba is doing something right now, away from His body Did you notice that it happened at the same time when so many disasters are occurring around the world It started at the same time with the nuclear disaster in Japan! I think the Avatar is at work right now We must realize that He is not at all limited to the body that is lying in Puttaparthi right now For me, it must be a test for all of us What would we do in the eventuality that Baba could pass away? How would we react? According to a prediction of Prophet Mohammed, the last ten years of the Avatar would be most special because there will be so much more people who would start believing in His Avatarhood We are entering the last ten years now!!!