



## “Christianity true to its meaning...”

By: Jonathan C. De Leon

Christians are often defined as a person who believes, trust, and has faith in God. A person who follows Christ

But still we see that most of those who claim to be Christians do not exemplify the true meaning of Christianity.

Where then lies the hypocrisy of this claim? A lot of people claim to be Christian but if you closely look at the way they live their lives especially when they are not in a church setting and all the more when they are alone or in anonymity, you would say that they do injustice to the name of our Lord. Could this be a case of schizophrenia? Where-in people live two lives while in church they act as if they truly are followers. But upon leaving the church they get back to the normality of everyday lives. It is as if they have only visited God and has left him at the

place they encountered Him. God seems to be confined in an institution where his people choose to visit Him once a week. We have limited the role of Christ in our lives as someone we claim to believe but still there are a lot about Him and of His teaching we doubt and have not fully resolved. We claim to trust Him but still a lot has been done to nullify the sacrifices that Jesus did for us by taking it upon ourselves to make our own way towards God's redemption. Yet we still claim to have faith in Him but lack the hope through His words to hold on to.

Having Doubt in ones heart diminishes Belief. Having little or no knowledge as to the nature of a person makes trusting the same very hard. And Faith is not something that you conjure up inside you but it is something that is first initiated by a word of hope for which you will then hold on to. Therefore, one needs to take all doubts from their heart and believe. Then get to have an intimate relationship with our Lord to be able to fully know Him and trust Him. Then immerse ourselves in the word of God to attain words of Hope and promises that our faith can hold on to.

But still the true meaning of the word Christians as the suffix “ians” connotes when it is used in such words as Ephesians, Corinthians, Thessalonians and the rest of the “ians” which simply means people living in Ephesus, Corinth and Thessalonica respectively. Christians simply means people living in Christ and Christ living in them. So therefore Christ must always be within us and not just among us....



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## PHILIPPINES: Corruption the Goliath of these times

By: Jonathan C. De Leon

There is no greater battle that our nation is waging on than the battle with corruption. Corruption is by far the biggest of our adversary. It has driven our nation from among the top nation in this area of the world to almost at the bottom of the lot. It has infected every aspect of our society from government, business, family, individuals and up to the very heart of our people. It has eaten away our morals, integrity, patriotism, values and character while instilling upon us immorality, impurity and debauchery. For so long a time it has bared its ugly paws in our everyday life yet we have accepted it as part of everyday life. It has engraved itself in our culture, traditions, practices, dealings and behavior. There are no times in a day of a regular citizen that the hands of this Goliath cannot

be seen from the simple act of undisciplined such as the crossing of a street (jay walking) to the million pesos graft and corruption of our officials. We have become its slave to scared to fight back and hopeless in the fight. Just as Goliath it has stand up against us and has ridiculed us by calling us out to battle one on one in doing so isolating us and transforming us into a spineless bunch of wimps. Countless of times our leaders had came up with plans and weaponry to fight this Goliath of Corruption but to no avail.

But still we ponder is there no one who will be brave enough to meet this enemy in battle and what weapon can defeat this gigantic adversary. Just as in Biblical times, A David is needed. People who just like David, that are craving for a battle to be won, a beauty to be rescued and an adventure to live. For this

truly brings the man out of the man. The battle is for our land (Philippines). The beauty is our family, relatives, friends, country and future. And the adventure can start now.

Just like David he went to battle not with weapons of this world but the confidence that the Lord is with him and will give him the victory. The same way will this Goliath be laid to the ground and its ugly head be cut off. It is with us uniting together and facing this foe as one in the Lord, craving for the battle and having the confidence that the Lord is with us in this encounter to give us victory.

For the battles won today will determine the battles in the future....

## The Unnoticed Tree in the Garden



By: Jonathan C. De Leon

There is this one ignored, overlooked, disregarded and basically unnoticed tree in the garden. It is sad to think that it is in fact situated at the very midst of the garden just like being on the spot light but, no one even noticed it. It may be because it is sharing this spot light with a tree that is flamboyant, showy, colorful, ostentatious, glitzy, flashy, and loud. While on the other hand our tree is quite modest, humble, meek, reserved and unpretentious. Everybody was drawn to the extravagant tree. It offers a lot of thing to its patron's fame, fortune, excitement and a rush but, with it all is the danger of pain, suffering, and eventual death. But still people ignore its flashing red warning sign and partake at the cheap trill that it entails, all the while indulging themselves to its enticing fruits slowly ingesting its poison to their very soul. Intoxicating them and until they become fully addicted to is fruits.

Yet there in the spotlight is yet another tree the unnoticed tree quite down to earth deeply rooted and well meaning. It does not offer extravagant things just those that people needs most peace, joy, gentleness, kindness, patience, love, faithfulness, and most especially Life everlasting.

This tree is the “Tree of Life”... Read Story Genesis 2:9