

I started by myself for the first 6 weeks, working from home with a desktop computer. When I left SoluSoft, I had just gotten married and had a baby boy and my bank balance in hand was Rupees 25000/-. After 6 weeks of struggle, I rented a small office premises -about 200 sq. feet -- and hired a fresher MSc IT student to work for me. Those moments very challenging and full of risk. With a family, a baby and now a developer, there were too many liabilities with me. However I trusted in God and gave it my best shot. Today Atlas InfoTech is a full-fledged company and is now automated in its business processes. I say this not to show that I am a very hardworking person, but to admit and testify that the most normal person, when used by God, can become a success.

Friends, what I shared right now is no fairy tale, it is the real story of my own life, my own experience. Nothing is impossible. Life does not end with the minor failures that come from time to time. If we are willing to learn from those mistakes, completely surrender your life in the hand of God, He will take the responsibility of bringing your life back on track. You set your boundaries and plan how you want to build your career, leave the rest to God. Grab every opportunity in life and run with it. You may fall, but don't give up, rise up and run the race and all your hard work will surely be rewarded. I wrote this piece on hearing the news that my alma mater Nirma University was to felicitate me with an award for being Best Entrepreneur among the Alumni of the institute. Friends, how did this happen? Why did God show his favor upon me? Word of God says, those who trust in the Lord are like mount Zion which cannot be shaken but endures forever [Ps 125:1]. Yes it's because I had faith on my Lord that He will mould me to the best. Since my childhood days, I learnt to spend time in the presence of God, receive his Word through prayer and work as much possible in His vineyard. Every free time I had, I would prefer to spend it in the Lords service rather than spending it over the worldly pleasure. Which is why, even when I fell or went wrong, the Lord in His love, brought me back. I believe this was the key to my success. Long way to go yet. But as long as I am in my Master's hands, I am convinced He will keep shaping me into what he wants me to be, a Masterpiece, come what may. The moral is this: Extraordinary faith in the Master, makes our ordinary lives a Masterpiece. So rely on his Masterstroke to make everything perfect in his time.

CROSSWORD

Down

1. What was the name of the commander who sent Paul to Felix? [13]
3. Who was Esther's predecessor? [6]
6. Within how much time did Babylon Fall? [7]
9. What should not be despised? [10]

Across

2. Who was Absalom's sister? [5]
4. Who was Jonathans Son? [12]
5. Name the prophet who ate the Lords words? [8]
8. Name the father of Zephaniah [5]
10. Who was Othniels son-in-law? [5]

EDITORIAL

Dear Ablazers,

More delighted than ever, we want to start this issue by giving all honor and credit to the Almighty. Our readers must be wondering where we had disappeared for the last 3 months. We were working behind our Special Anniversary Edition. As we turn 1, we want to thank all our Readers for their support and loyalty. We pray for each one of you and hope that Ablaze lights up your lives a little more with every issue.

We're celebrating an year of revival and rejuvenation. We've experienced immense changes in us ever since we've had Ablaze. In the last few months, we've witnessed miracles, answers to our prayers, life-changing testimonies and saw youths receiving spiritual gifts. We believe it's your prayers and hope you will continue praying for us. We need testimonies for Jesus!

This anniversary issue brings you some beautiful testimonies. Crossfire, with the story of Charles, reaffirms that nothing is too big before the power of God. Every sin is small and every other strength is weak when God begins to act. Royson Rajan wants to encourage all the young people, who are burdened about their careers, to submit everything to the will of God and see Him making everything straight. A must read for people who've got bigger ambitions than the world. What more? Our Ablazer of the Month, Sister Judy Franko, has overcome tumor and pain because she chose to hear the voice of the Lord. She teaches you to hear beyond the amusing noises of the world to see wonders in life. Annie has penned a beautiful poem on becoming a Masterpiece of God. We're Children of God and hence, we're extra ordinary. Just like Ablaze realized its unique purpose in its Journey so far ...

For all who have or are willing to experience a special touch of the Savior, we would like you to be a part of the Ablaze Youth Convention that aims to make you believe that you are fearfully and wonderfully made and you are a Masterpiece of God. For details, you may contact the numbers given on the last page. Block your dates for October 2nd & 3rd. We'd like to see you soon.

Editorial Team,
Blessy Roshan, Annie Royson, Nisi Samuel



CROSSFIRE - THE POWER OF GOD

BEJINI SAJAN

The Gospel is the message of the Cross. Christ took our death consequences in order to give us His life. Jesus Christ gave His life as ransom for many. In the scriptures, Paul uses the word "cross" to refer to the "finished work" of God in Christ. Satan assumed that he was victorious as the cross signified to him that Jesus Christ was dead and he would no longer come back to save the mankind from his clutches. But everything changed as soon as Christ rose from the dead. For believers death isn't a scary thing. It truly means it is a way for the eternal life prepared for us. The power of the cross has done several wonders in many peoples' lives. All who believed in this power experienced the fire, the spiritual fire which led them into transforming to Jesus.



GRACE MARKS TO GOLD MEDAL - PURE GRACE

THE STORY OF HOW I CHOSE MY CAREER PATH

ROYSON RAJAN

Born in 1984, I did my schooling from St Xavier's Higher Secondary School, Mirzapur, Ahmedabad. I was an average student in the class, always getting first class grades in exams. My study policy was - study at school, play at home. I got 81% in my SSC exams and opted for Science Stream aiming to become an engineer one day. Everything was going good until in 2001 when I was in 11 standard - we all remember the earthquake that shook Ahmedabad. We were promoted to Std.12 with very little time to study. As if this was not enough, in 2002, during my 12 Standard the most violent riots took place in Ahmedabad.. I passed my HSC with grace marks in Physics and Chemistry.

With such terrible results all my hope of being an engineer was lost and I was praying that I should at least get a BSc admission. I took my admission in Bhavans College and those six months that I spent in travelling to and studying at Bhavans was a nightmare. Every morning when I stepped out of my house, I would be sad and depressed. My depression was at a peak and it was in that August that I decided to end my life. I gobbled some blood pressure tablets one night and went off to sleep. However the next morning I had my dad wake me up and I was shocked to see the day. My dad who sensed something fishy sat back with me and counseled me to his best. Luckily the next day I got a call letter from the engineering admissions authority. I had filled a form in the past, though I really had no hope. Based on my rank and my marks I was certain that I would never be able to get into engineering. I remember the date of my interview, it was same day my interim physics exam in Bhavans was to be held. I decided to take a bold step. Based on the last day admission status, there were no possibility I would get admission in an engineering degree, but there were some diploma seats in engineering available and Nirma Institute of Diploma Studies had 3 more seats vacant in the Computer Engineering field. I locked myself in a room and prayed to God. I said " God if you are truly God and if you can give me one genuine chance to correct myself, then this day give me admissions in Nirma." Computer Engineering has been always my field of interest.

So I decided to leave my physics paper and I went to LD engineering admission center. When my turn came, my physics exam time was over, there was no turning back for me and in front of me there was one seat available and I closed my eyes and handed over my certificates and documents to the officer, who allotted me the seat. The first day in college, I made up my choices, I decided if I got this second chance, I wouldn't lose it. I started my daily lectures without missing any of my classes. Semester 1 results were out and I stood first. I think it was my third semester when CII had organized a show and Nirma students had a chance to go to the show. I was selected to go there and our principal Mr. Kannad Bandhopadyay called me along with others to his cabin. He gave us an outline about the show and asked us to go there and visit it. He opened his wallet and took out his business card and he was about to give it to us so that we could interact with business men in the show, but then he paused and said "Wait, why don't you guys make your own business cards, just design one in word file and take print, cut them and use them. Address yourself with your choicest titles." That day, I made a business card for myself as Mr. Royson Rajan, Future Entrepreneur and put my mobile number on it. Every semester I stood first, got gold medals for outstanding performance and was placed in Adiance Technologies Pvt Ltd.



As I started my career, since I was a gold medalist in Diploma, I had chance to now opt for a Bachelor's degree. Under the Degree2Diploma scheme there was one seat available for a Nirma Diploma student to get into the Bachelor's program. Throughout my Diploma studies, I kept my focus on this seat. I got admitted to the Institute of Technology, Nirma University. Along with my studies, a US-based company named SoluSoft Technologies wanted to build its India presence and through a business meet, we got acquainted with each other and in 2005, I joined SoluSoft Technologies Pvt Ltd. Since the inception of their India operations, I helped them build their business presence in India. During my BTech studies, I would be in college from 8 am to 4 pm and from 5 pm to 11pm and sometimes till 1 in the morning I used to work for SoluSoft. It was very challenging and tough but I had my business card in my mind.

I finished my BTech studies from Nirma with 80% and continued working with SoluSoft. Now I was Vice President there and earning a decent salary. In 2010 I got married and considering the circumstances at that time, I had to part my ways with SoluSoft. At this point, I decided to incubate a company of my own and in November, 2011, I formed my own company and named it **Atlas InfoTech**.

Today, I'd like to share one such testimony (which greatly moved my heart) of a great Olympian who was touched by this power of the Cross.

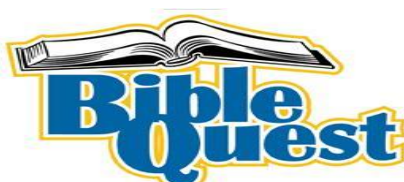
Charles Murray, an Olympic prospect and a very skilled high diver, was not raised in a Christian home and was struggling with God over some of the issues his roommate discussed about the forgiveness of sin and the saving power of the Cross. Everything about Jesus was a fascination to him and he began to ask questions about forgiveness and the Cross.

Finally one day when his friend asked him if he was ready to accept Christ as his saviour and Redeemer. His reply was a strong "NO". Over a period of time, Charles began to read the New Testament searching for the message on Salvation and the Cross and the forgiveness of sin with the help of his friend. However, he always carried this guilt on his face and seemed troubled. He was carrying this heavy heart with the burden of sin. Charles had special privileges at the University pool facilities as he as training for the Olympic Games. One evening he became especially restless and confused with his spiritual struggle and decided to spend some additional time practicing dives. Sometime between 10:30 and 11:00 PM he went to the pool. It was a clear night in October and the moon was big and bright. The University pool was housed under a ceiling of glass panes. The moon shone bright across the top of the wall in the pool area.

He believed that there was no need to turn on the pool lights because the glow of the moon filtered enough light into the building. Charles took the highest platform to take his first dive. At that moment the Spirit of God began to convict him of his sins. All the scripture he had read and all the occasions others witnessed to him about Christ flooded his mind. He stood on the platform backwards to make his dive, spread his arms to gather his balance, looked up to the wall, and saw his own shadow on the side of the pool building. The moonlight silhouetted his body projecting the shape of a cross on the stark, white wall. When he saw the cross, he could bear the burden of his sin no longer. His heart broke as he sat down on the platform and asked God to forgive him and save him. He trusted Jesus Christ on a twenty foot platform with only the walls of the building to hear his confession. Suddenly, a door opened and the lights of the pool area came on. One of the maintenance workers had come to check some work he had been doing on the pool. As Charles looked down from his platform he saw an empty pool, which had been drained for repairs. He had almost plummeted to his death, but the cross had stopped him from disaster.

Dear Readers - I'm sure this testimony would have changed you into believing that truly Christ shed his precious blood on the Cross and He has redeemed us of our sins. Once we believe Him and trust Him and confess our sins, He for sure would forgive us and would be our great refuge and strength.

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" - Romans 5:8.



1. Who tore a lion apart with his bare hands?
2. What was the name of a commander who was a leper?
3. Who asked, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?"
4. Who proclaimed the saving acts in the great assembly?
5. Who said, "It's better for me to die than to live"?
6. Who held court under the Palm?
7. On which mountain, did Solomon build the temple?
8. Who wanted to die the death of the righteous?
9. who was the judge who asked a riddle?
10. Who kept on talking until midnight?
11. Who was the first person to build a city?
12. Who suffered a great deal in a dream?
13. Who prayed for his wife?
14. Who was the king who ordered to behead John the Baptist?
15. How did the Lord lay the earth's foundation?
16. Who said, "if it is a girl, let her live"?
17. Which bird builds its nest on high?
18. Who lied to God?
19. Who said, "Do not be angry, my lord"?
20. Name the king who was tormented by an evil spirit

One day, as I sat on the hospital bed and my dear husband was reading a portion from the Bible (2 Peter Chapter 1), the Lord spoke to me about the purpose of our life and His plans for me through a life of preparation and discipline. It was a step by step grand plan that He laid out before us with clear instructions to start His work. We were taken aback as we are too young and not qualified or experienced to handle such a mammoth project, but the Lord confirmed it through my husband. My husband was then into full-time ministry, taking care of a Bible School and Church. Further, the Lord sent a man of prayer and confirmed the same details of the projects that the Lord has shared with us in the hospital. We were witnessing the mighty and miraculous hand of God through these times. It was almost five months that I had not gone to office, my managers and colleagues were extremely supportive, but I realized it was time to quit and do what God had asked me to do. What greater opportunity would one get in a lifetime than to be recruited by the creator of life and universe himself! I quit my job in July 2013 and joined my husband in full time ministry. The day I took the decision to obey I was healed and never had to go back to the hospital. The Lord enabled us to start a ministry with a social and evangelistic outlook to empower communities with God's strength and love. Truly, there is no greater joy in life than finding the purpose of your life and living each day in the plan that God has designed for you – in God's garden and not the world's amusement park.

It our response to life's situations and experiences that make us the person we are today. You may have a difficult situation today - always know that it is your choice of response that steers you through. You have a choice to hear Jesus' voice and be with him in the garden or listen to the world and stay in the world's amusement park.

JOURNEY SO FAR

Time flies. We're celebrating the first birthday of the blessed answer to our prayers called Ablaze. In the last one year, God has taken us through wonderful experiences and mysterious ways in reaching out to His chosen people and touching their lives through the articles, poems, prayers and testimonies that are published in our newsletter. We are sure that all our readers have felt and experienced the power of God and His Word through everything that appears in Ablaze. Here is our testimony of the journey so far...

HOW WE STARTED

On a very ordinary Sunday evening, a group of young Christians gathered to pray for their city and country. They realized that in spite of having different ambitions in lives, they had a common burden in their hearts - Do something BIG for the Lord. They wanted to reach out to like-minded youngsters who shared this burden and to those youngsters who were struggling with life's questions and their relationship with God. God spoke to us that evening and we knew we need a common platform where we connect with a larger group of people. We named it 'Ablaze'. Ablaze means to burn from within and give light. We believe that we are the light of the world and with this Faith we launched our monthly newsletter Ablaze.

VISION

Our vision is to take the Word of God, the light and love that we have experienced in our lives, to the youngsters of this generation. In a time when there are difficult temptations, vices and addictions that are destroying young lives every day, we want to proclaim the eternal peace that comes from our Lord Jesus.

CHALLENGES

Since the birth of Ablaze, things haven't always been cakewalk. We did feel clueless at times, not knowing how to move ahead. But God never said the road was going to be easy; neither did He ask us to struggle with things out on our own. Instead He asked us to trust in Him. Situations and responsibilities threw curves at us. But today, we proudly testify today that God never forsakes His own. We made the start and He led us according to His promises.

MILESTONES

It was a proud moment for us when we got the very first inquiry for Ablaze. Proud moments followed when we got testimonies, contest entries and feedback from people whom we never knew before. We can't thank God enough for his mercies. We came across miracles, touching testimonies, innovative solutions to the problems that we faced. But most of all, we grew closer to our Lord. As a group. It led us to explore the depths of the Word of God and seek answers from Him. The small spark that was in us has indeed grown into a Blaze. And it is spreading. We have seen new anointings, answered prayers and gifts of the Spirit among the youngsters in our Church. We hope and pray that all of you, or readers, have experienced and will experience similar blessings in your life. It is your turn, now, to pick up the torch and spread the light.

MEET OUR TEAM

Team Ablaze consists of youngsters who pick crazy ideas to make Jesus known. We'd like to give a very personalized introduction to ourselves.

Royson Rajan – The Mastermind Bro. Royson, one of the brains behind the birth of Ablaze and youth leader of our Church, gives us guidance – Spiritual and otherwise. He is always ready to take the crazy ideas of the Editors and other youngsters and finds ways of making them happen. He is also the glue that holds all of us together and makes sure we meet regularly and spend time evaluating our own spiritual life. A live wire of energy and inspiration to all of us in the team.

Annie Royson - The Coach A coach makes sure you're trained enough to be launched and always prepares for better. Annie is the coach of the team who constantly reminds and puts in her best to ensure that each issue is better than the previous. A PhD student who has zero tolerance for slang and sticks to the time limit. Usually the one to point out bottlenecks and critically analyze every point, only to sit back and enjoy the best outcome.

Blessy Roshan – The Judge Nothing can get past this eagle-eye. Blessy is our one-woman army who has an important say in what goes into each issue of Ablaze. She also makes sure that all of the contributions we receive are original. So when you read something and go, "That's new. I like it", you have Blessy to thank for it. Her cool common sense and observant nature ensures that Ablaze maintains its high standards.

Nisi Samuel – The Creative Genius This one's brain is a storehouse of innovative ideas and unheard-of ways to make things interesting. Nisi is in charge of designing the newsletter. All the great colours, themes and designing you see every month is her handiwork. What's more, she is a great writer too. All the articles that she has written have been a great hit among our readers. As editors, her fun-loving nature and cheerful smile makes it a pleasure to work with her

Roshan Jacob – The Circulation Officer If you receive your copy of Ablaze every month to read in the comfort of your home, it is all thanks to Bro. Roshan. Silent and dependable, always on time.

Sajan Abraham – The Piggy Bank Bro. Sajan manages the funds that are required to bring out every issue of Ablaze. He is a testimony and witness of the wonderful ways in which God provides for us, every month. Faithful and absolutely great fun to be around at all times.

Apart from these names, we have a lot of regular contributors who send in articles, testimonies, poems and quizzes. We also have a wonderful support system in the elders of our Church who uphold us in prayers all the time. We also have a vibrant and supportive youth group – which is the actual birthplace of this newsletter. Regular discussions and suggestions within this group is one of the most important factors in keeping the newsletter up to expected standards and useful for the Lord's ministry. Most of all, all glory to our lord Jesus, in whose hands we are mere vessels and instruments, for His glory.





RESTORE, RENEW, REFINE
ANNIE ROYSON

Of what I aspired to be I am a weak, watered down form
Of what you want me to be I am not anywhere close
Trudging along each day, hoping something would change
Waiting for an epiphany to spark that much awaited blaze

Till the Fire came down and touched me one day
Making every atom quiver that was until now staid
Unspeakable joy filled my parched soul
Thrilling me to my innermost being, making me whole

It is not a sudden vision, I realized
That would bring about the change
The vision would give hope
But I had to be taught

The Counsellor came to live in me
Whispering counsel each day
"This is the way for you, Walk
Now turn to the right, now to the left"

Then pain came, and sorrow, and storms
And I, like a frail plant, bent over, forlorn
The Comforter said, "March on
There's a prize to be won, a Crown"

Now I'm assured I will be one day
The gem he wants me to be
Because I let Him pour His Spirit on me
A Masterpiece – the Potter will make of me



SYSTEM ERROR : *Someone has played a mischief and jumbled the words given below. Yes, they are Books and Names from the Bible but we're having a tough time sorting them. Would you like to help us with finding the correct words ?*

SING SEE, OX DUES, RUB MEN S, SO JUHA, JUG SED, HURT, ALMS SP, ROUTED
MONEY, STAC, ARM K, HIS AIA, LINE AD, ON JAH, MAN SOR, REEP T, SUIT T,
PHONE LIM, HE REST, JAILEH, HENTEPS, ULPA, BAMHARA, LISAS, ANHO, RAASH,
NANA, OSSEM, UTIST



Ablazer of the Month

My Story, My Voice

I hope and pray that while reading this testimony, you be essentially encouraged, significantly challenged and greatly blessed.

I would like to share two learning's from some of my life events that have made me the person I am today.

1. God's voice is loudest in the silence of our pain.
2. Live in God's garden than the world's amusement park

I am one of those people who have had a perfect life, godly family and upbringing, good education, great friends, nice job, loving husband... yes – the perfect life!
My life mostly revolved around home, church, friends and work, things were simple and peaceful.



SISTER JUDY FRANKO
Hyderabad

It all came falling apart in November 2012 when I was diagnosed with a tumour in the Pancreas and the doctors suggested I get it surgically removed. On further investigation we found that the Spleen was also affected by the tumour and it also has to be removed. In just a couple of weeks I figured that I am going to lose two vital organs and my life is not going to be the same again. We prayed fervently to the Lord to heal but did not hear from Him. We then decided to go with the surgery in March 2013 and the d-day came and underwent the procedure. It was a major surgery with a couple of days of intensive medical care. I still remember lying terrified on the operation table and looking at the huge lights over my head, in the midst of the medical buzz around me I saw a vivid pair of eyes look down at me that assured to be watching over me while I closed my eyes. That morning we read Psalms 121 – A promise to watch over me. The surgery went well and I rested for a couple of days at the hospital and was discharged.

After a week I started showing signs of weakness and the surgical drain fluid refused to stop, I was back in the hospital. The ordeal that followed after that was something we did not expect and that changed my life forever. It was not just a painful time for me but also for my family and friends. The doctors had no reason why the fluid did not stop, they tried multiple surgeries, procedures and tests to help but in vain. I was admitted five times in six months with around ten days each time and numerous visits for tests and examinations. Every doctor, nurse and ayah knew me by name. This was apparently the best hospital for such problems but we also consulted other doctors and hospitals and they had no answer either. Everyone had great theories on what could have possibly gone wrong but no clear solution to my situation. I had drastic weight loss, protein loss and morale loss. It was in this darkest hour that I heard the voice of my heavenly Father, I felt him close to me warm as a pillow and as real as an embrace. I had earlier experienced the love and communion of being with God but this was different, this was intimate and powerful. There would be times when I could not sleep or lie down because of the multiple pipes in my body through the sides and lungs; I would be pressed to read a portion from the Bible as if someone were compelling me to do so.

It was in these difficult times that my Lord taught me to hear His voice, pray in the spirit and interpret the word. All this while, I heard the word but did not see His heart, I worshipped but did not see His face, I prayed but did not commune, this experience changed all that. It was like seeing my faith in Jesus in a new dimension with a whole new meaning and perspective. There were days and nights of pain through these months when I was not sure if I could see the next day. My body was weak but I knew through this my soul was being nourished. Truly I heard His voice when I lay quiet and listened to Him in the quietness of my pain.