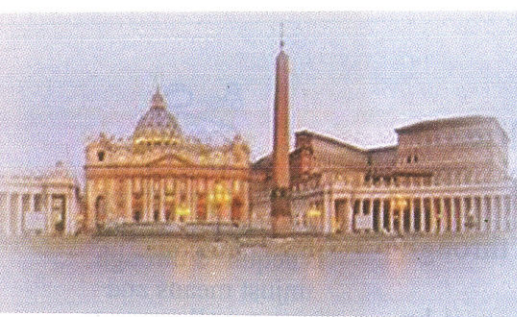




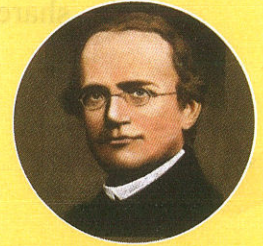
Chapter - 11

Christian Contributions



- Do you remember who is known as the father of genetics?
- After the fall of the ancient Roman Empire, what was the driving force that established a healthy culture in the Western world?
- Have you ever thought about the reason why Mother Teresa is still being remembered in the streets of Kolkata?
- Can you imagine the transformation brought to Kerala by 'Pallikkoodam' of St. Chavara?

The great joyous Good News for all people continues to be proclaimed through the Church. When we examine world history, Indian history, and Kerala history, we will be convinced of this truth. Let us reflect on the Christian presence evident in all spheres of life.



Gregor Mendel
(1822-1884)



St. Teresa of Calcutta
(1910- 1997)



St. Chavara Kuriakose Eliase
(1805-1871)



What are the contributions that the Church gave to this world?

1. Moral Sphere

The Church teaches that humans must also possess spirituality and morality apart from intellect, sociability, and politics. The Church continually reminds the world that without these unique qualities, a human being is no different from an animal.

It is the Catholic Church that has always taken the lead in teaching the world to raise its voice against all challenges to human life. The foundation of all human right laws that the world upholds today is the Gospel values. The Church is the moral conscience of the world. That is why even the United Nations listens attentively to the Church's stance. Just as the Tower of Babel was built, wherever there is an attempt to build peace and prosperity without God, the Church becomes the corrective power of the world.

2. Social Sphere

From the Christian perspective, all human beings are equal. The absence of this thought is the cause of all social injustices. The Church has raised its voice for human rights throughout the world, including in America and Africa. The Church's interventions against heinous evils such as human sacrifice, infanticide, and abortion paved the way for significant social changes. The Church has taken strong stances against societal issues such as artificial birth control methods and polygamy.

In India, the Christian worldview was the guiding force for Raja Ram Mohan Roy's Brahma Samaj and other reform movements. It was the influence of Christianity that awakened the conscience of India against social evils such as untouchability, sati, and slavery.

In certain socially darkened areas, the interventions made

St. Francis of Assisi's Prayer for Peace

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy. O

Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and for it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.



Can you find the Gospel values reflected in St. Francis of Assisi's Peace Prayer?

by Christians to bring light are now part of history.

Field of Action	Christian intervention
Slave Trade	In 1847, missionaries Rev. Mead, Rev. Mott, Rev. Bailey, and Rev. Baker presented a petition to the Maharaja of Travancore. As a result, in 1853, slave trade was abolished. Following the strict orders of Colonel Stewart, it came into effect in 1854.
The right of women belonging to castes considered inferior to cover their upper body.	It was the Christian missionaries who organized the Channar women studying in Christian educational institutions and led the historical struggle for the right to cover their upper bodies. Following the directive of the Governor of Madras, on July 26, 1859, through a proclamation by the Maharaja, the Channar women were granted the freedom to cover their upper bodies.
Untouchability	In a society filled with untouchability, inequalities, and caste-based thinking, it was the educational institutions established by the missionaries that marked the beginning of change. Those who were previously denied education became eligible for high-ranking positions as a result of the education provided by the Christians.
Appointment of Officials (Malayali Memorial, 1891)	The protest demanding the abolition of the Tamil Brahmin domination in government services and the provision of employment to the people of Travancore was led by Nidheerikkal Manikathanar, who played a decisive role.

For Justice and Peace of the Church

"The existing economic and social disparities between the members of the one family of humanity or among communities in fact cause great division. This stands opposed to social justice, equality the dignity of the individual, and likewise to both social and international peace."

The Church in the Modern World 29

Missionaries for the Tribals

Through the activities undertaken by missionaries among tribal communities, a tradition of social work was established in modern India. The missionaries who worked here were the primary reason for the inclusion of special provisions in the Indian Constitution aimed at the welfare of tribal communities and indigenous peoples, as well as for the efforts of the central and state governments to integrate them into the mainstream of national life.

K.M. Panikkar
(Indian Historian)
Foundations of New India, Page 53

The civil rights movement	A protest for Christians, Muslims, and lower-caste Hindus to obtain government employment gained momentum in 1921 when Shevalier Theryathu Kunhithomman presented the Civil Rights Equality Resolution in the Travancore Legislative Assembly.
The representation issue in the legislative assembly (Reformation Protest)	A memorandum was submitted on October 15, 1932, demanding proportional representation in the legislative assembly for all communities. Through the reformation protest, in which Christians played a significant role, these demands were accepted in 1936.
Freedom of Movement	Christians had an active presence in the agitations for the right to freedom of movement. In 1924, supporting the resolution presented by N. Kumaran in the legislative assembly, Fr. Vettikappally, Paul Daniel, Jn Nidhiri, K.C. Mammen Mappillai, and Chevalier Tharyat Kunjithomman delivered speeches. Barrister George Joseph, Bhajetharam Mathunni, Kuruvila Mathew, and Poovathumoottil Sebastian participated in the Satyagraha and faced arrest.

The Social Service Sector of the Church Today

All Catholic dioceses across the world have various social service organizations. The official social service activities of the Catholic Church in India are led by the organization 'Caritas India.' In Kerala, the 'Kerala Social Service Forum' coordinates the social service activities of the Catholic dioceses collectively. Through this, pathways are created for people to achieve greater growth in economic, social, and cultural spheres and to live with greater dignity. This contributes to regional development and the fundamental progress of the people.



The contributions of Christians to India's Renaissance were unparalleled. Justify?



Prepare a note on the social development activities carried out by Christians in your society.

It is the duty of citizens to contribute along with the civil authorities to the good of society in the spirit of truth, justice, solidarity, and freedom (CCC 2239).

"Human society can be neither well-ordered nor prosperous unless it has some people invested with legitimate authority to preserve its institutions and to devote themselves as far as is necessary to work and care for the good of all" (CCC 1897).



Describe the contributions of Christians in the nation-building process?

3. Nation Building

The role of Christians in the history of India's freedom struggle can never be denied.

- A.O. Hume, the founder of the Indian National Congress, and W.C. Banerjee, its first president, were Christians.
- The first president of the Home Rule Movement, which was established in 1916 for India's right to self-governance, was a Catholic named Joseph Baptista. Later, the leadership was taken over by Annie Besant, who was also a Christian woman.
- In Kerala, it was Barrister George Joseph, a Christian, who laid the foundation for the Home Rule Movement. He was also the one who edited and published Gandhiji's *Young India* and Motilal Nehru's *Independence*.
- Many Christians actively participated in the Non-Cooperation Movement, the Dandi March, and the Salt Satyagraha under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. The chief caretaker of the Sabarmati Ashram was a Christian, Thevarthundiyl Titus.
- K.T. Paul, Rao Bahadur Panneer Selvam, S.K. Dutt, Bishop V.S. Azariah, Violet Alva, and Akkamma Cherian were Christians who were at the forefront of the freedom struggle.
- The Bengal Christian Conference, founded under the leadership of Kalicharan Banerjee and Joy Govinda Shome, and the Western India Native Christian Alliance were movements that encouraged the national freedom struggle.



Varthamanapusthakam and National Consciousness

When the native kingdoms were scattered, the Varthamanapusthakam written by Paremakal Thoma Kattanar about national consciousness and self-rule, would amaze anyone. He wrote that a situation should arise where India will be ruled by Indians. The ideas in the Varthamanapusthakam molded the minds of the people towards the national freedom movement.

Varthamanapusthakam

The first travelogue in Malayalam is the Varthamanapusthakam. This work was written by Paremakal Thoma Kattanar. It narrates the journey to Rome undertaken in 1778 along with Joseph Kariattil Malpan.

Varthamanapusthakam and Nationalism

"The foremost elements that stand out in the work of Malpan and Kattanar are the patriotism, national pride, and love for the community and language."

Prof. Meenakshamma:
The Christian missionaries who enriched the Malayalam language (page 103)



How can we participate in the process of nation-building? Discuss.

For secular values

KT Paul, who participated in the first round table conference, adopted a stance that the Christian community should not seek any special political privileges and would stand for public consensus. Christians were at the forefront of the struggle declared by Gandhi against the British when they attempted to implement the Communal Award (1935).

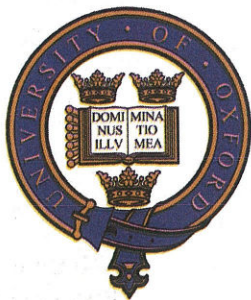
In 1935, under the leadership of Fr. Jerome D'Souza, who was a member of the Indian Constituent Assembly, Christian leaders gathered in Pune to oppose the reservation of constituencies on a communal basis. It was highly appreciated by Gandhiji. Leaders like B. M. Munje, the president of the Hindu Mahasabha, and C. Rajagopalachari, among others, praised the patriotism of Christians.

4. Education Sector

Many of the early universities in Europe were founded by the popes. The University of Paris, known as "New Athens," was founded by Pope Gregory IX.

It is noteworthy that the Coat of Arms of Oxford University bears the inscription "The Lord is my Light." Similarly, the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium, in remembrance of the Blessed Mother, has inscribed "Seat of Wisdom."

The educational institutions established by Christian missionaries served as milestones for the Renaissance. In India, missionaries first started a school in Goa in 1540. The Santaf School, founded at that time, was later elevated to St. Paul's College.



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The educational institutions established by Christian

My education began at Schwartz School, which was founded by missionaries 250 years ago. After completing my S.S.L.C., I joined St. Joseph's School, which was a Jesuit institution. I extend my respectful salutations to all the achievements I have attained in the field of education to the teachers of both Schwarz and St. Joseph. The teachers at St. Joseph were exemplary role models for me. I offer my salutations to the great missionaries who provided me with good education.

Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, from his speech at Kochi Marine Drive on November 17, 2002.



Organize a seminar on the topic "Christian Contributions to the Field of Education."



"The contributions of St. Chavara Achan to the field of education in Kerala are unparalleled." Justify the statement?

missionaries served as milestones for the Renaissance. In India, missionaries first started a school in Goa in 1540. The Santaf School, founded at that time, was later elevated to St. Paul's College.

Contributions of St. Chavara



In 1846, St. Chavara Kuriakose Elias Achan (1805-1871) established a Sanskrit school in Mannanam, followed by a Malayalam school, which was instrumental in popularizing education in Kerala. As the Vicar General of the Syrian Catholics, St. Chavara took the initiative to set up parish-attached pallikoodam schools across Kerala. It is in this context that hundreds of educational institutions were

established across Kerala. The introduction of free uniforms and midday meals in schools for the first time in Kerala was solely due to the efforts of St. Chavara. Through his efforts to ensure education for the underprivileged, St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara played a crucial role in Kerala's renaissance.

Women's Education

Society did not consider educating women as a necessity. A revolutionary change in this regard was brought about by Christian missionaries like Mrs. Baker. In 1819, Mrs. Mead established a school in Nagarkovil for women's education..

Subsequently, numerous girls' schools were established across Kerala, strengthening women's education. By the interventions of the Christian community, Kerala became a leader in women's education and gifted the nation with prominent figures such as the first female High Court judge, Mrs. Anna Chandy, and the first female Chief Engineer, Mrs. P.K. Thresia.

The CMI congregation established by St. Chavara in Kerala, along with the Carmelite congregation founded for nuns, followed by the formation of the Adoration and Sacred Heart congregations, gave great importance to education for all, especially for women. The efforts of St. Mariam Thresia,



Can we find out the purpose of the struggles for educational rights in Kerala during the years 1945, 1957, 1972, and 2006?



love for widows and orphans, prisoners, and the sick and needy of every kind, is as essential to her as the ministry of the sacraments and preaching of the Gospel. The Church cannot neglect the service of charity any more than she can neglect the Sacraments and the Word.

God is Love 22



Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen (1 Jn 4:20).

the founder of the Congregation of the Holy Family, who played a leading role in women's education, are remarkable.

5. Charitable Sector

- "Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Mt 25:40). Inspired by these words of Jesus, the Church became active in charitable works from the very first century. In the time of the Apostles, seven deacons were appointed, and the Church in Galatia was advised to pay attention to the poor (Gal 2:10), which shows the Church's concern in this area.
- The Church is at the forefront of protecting and assisting all communities, including thousands of differently-abled individuals, and those experiencing hardships in various sectors.
- Activities for settlers and refugees, work for those in prison, protection of street children, blood donation drives, palliative care units, housing projects, hospitals, and shelters for the homeless are just some of the charitable works of the Catholic Church.

6. Language, literary and art spheres

In India, it was the Christian missionaries who created a language culture among the tribal communities. In Kerala, they were the ones who initiated the writing of grammar books in Malayalam. The contributions of Herman Gundert, Arnos Pathiri, and others in the field of Malayalam grammar are significant. The contributions of the Christians in the field of dictionary writing are also profound.

The first epic in Malayalam based on biblical history was written by the great poet Kattakkayyam Cheriyaan Mappila. Sister Mary Beninja, known as the mystic poet of Malayalam, P.M. Devasya, who wrote four epics, P.C. Devasya, who wrote the Sanskrit epic 'Christubhagavatham,' have made immense contributions to the field of literature. The contributions of Father Jn Kunnappally and I.C. Chacko, scholars of grammar, are incomparable.

Missionaries are responsible for the creation of the scripts of most of the world's languages, including Japanese, Korean, Tamil, and Hindi.

The Catholic Church has made unparalleled contributions in the fields of art, music, and sculpture.



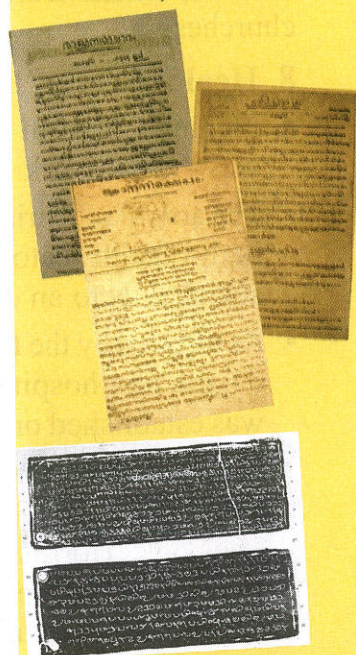
"Love for the neighbor, grounded in God's love, is the primary responsibility of every individual believer. As a community, it must be practiced and upheld."
(God is Love 20)



Study and prepare a report on the charitable activities conducted last year in your diocese, parish, and associations.



Describe the Christian contributions in the fields of language, literature, and arts?



The architectural styles in sculpture such as Byzantine, Roman, Gothic, and Baroque are unique. Christian places of worship, established in Rome and various countries around the world, are the major contributions in the field of culture. The world-renowned 'Gregorian Chant' alone is enough to highlight the depth of the Church's contributions to the field of music.

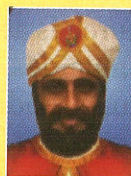
The traditional art forms of the Indian Church, such as Margam Kali, Rampan Paatu, Chavittu Nadakam, and Veeradiyan Paattu, are contributions of the Church to the field of arts. 'Cochin Kalabhavan,' established by Fr. Abel C.M.I, brought a new awakening in the field of arts.

7. Agricultural Industrial Sector

In the agricultural industrial sectors of Kerala, Christians were at the forefront. The Tarisappalli Cheppetu received by Syrian Christians in Kollam is just one example of this. Thachil Mathu Tharakan, who transformed the landscape of Alleppey, often referred to as the "Venice of the East," and Joseph Murikan, a farming marvel who drained the backwaters to cultivate paddy fields, are great examples of Christian contributions to this field. The role of Christians in the Malabar High Range migrations, which alleviated famine in Kerala, cannot be denied. Even the roots of banking systems were linked to practices like Chitty systems and Kurikal, which were traditionally organized through the churches.

8. Health Sector

- Finding Christ in the sick and serving them (Mt 25:36) was the hallmark of Christian healthcare service.
- The arrival of Christian missionaries and their intervention in the health sector helped to eradicate superstitions and social evils to an extent.
- As directed by the Portuguese Viceroy, Francisco de Almeida, the first hospital in Kerala, "Santa Cruz de Cochin," was established on January 11, 1506, in Kochi. This was a main reason for the significant growth in the health sector.
- The book "Hortus Malabaricus," which has 12 volumes, was published between 1678 and 1703. It provided a comprehensive study of the medicinal plants and the plant



Thachil Mathew Tharakan (1900 -1974)
(1741-1814).



Explain the Christian presence in the agricultural industrial sectors of Kerala with examples?

world of this land (Kerala). This knowledge brought a new awakening to the health sector. The book was written by Father Mathew of Saint Joseph and his associates.

- The works of Saint Father Damien in Molocco and Saint Mother Teresa in Kolkata are highly appreciated.
- Focusing on public health and its importance in all possible mission areas and rural regions, dispensaries are opened.

9. The Field of Science

(Refer Chapter 7: Christianity and Science)

Jesus Christ came into the world to proclaim the gospel to the poor, to bring freedom to the oppressed, to heal the sick, and to stand with the downtrodden. Through the Church, His work continues even today. We can be proud of the fact that the efforts of Christians were crucial to the progress of the world.

My Convictions



- The Church has played a crucial role in laying the foundation for the humanitarian progress of the world.
- For the social renaissance and independence of our motherland, Christians made significant contributions.
- The Church has been a key player in the overall progress of Kerala.



Let Us Read the Word of God

The Acts of the Apostles
Chapters 21-24



Let us illuminate our hearts

"whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave" (Mt 20:27).

My Resolution



By holding onto Christian values and following the path of our ancestors, I will work alongside the Church for the progress of the nation.