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Pastor thank you for this interview and very good afternoon to you.

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Let's start the interview with talking about new life fellowship.

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And when did it start in India and little bit about organisation.

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New life fellowship began with two of the missionaries came from the New Zealand, Graham T escort and Paterson. Their families, they moved... There was a great revival in New Zealand in 60s.

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And so from the revival in New Zealand, they moved out of that country to different parts. These two couple came to India. In late 60s it began as a prayer meeting. Different than conventional churches, different than conventional worshipping, different than conventional ethos of what church is, you now the freedom, that's why they gave the name called New Life Fellowship.

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It doesn't say new life church; it's a fellowship of believer of gods' people, those who have new life in them. It just not named new life but who experience new life.

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Then Pst. Joseph who's my Spiritual father he became one of the key leaders along with them and they laid their hands on him in the late 60s. And then it became a church movement. So that's how the inception of New Life Fellowship is growing as a church in Mumbai

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So it's started in Mumbai?

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They came from New Zealand and they started a group in Pune called new life center, so those two couple would go from Pune to Mumbai they preached in Pune on Sunday Morning and evening they'll come to Mumbai to speak. So they'd go to and fro. That's how it began as a fellowship

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And then it became an organisation formed as New Life Fellowship society as an church, as an association in the late 60s and early 70s. And that's where Pst. Joseph who's my spiritual father, who's the leader of New Life fellowship then.

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And today what kind of reach does it have?

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See i came to know about the lord in 1978 and that time it was just 100 people, just two or three home groups. The beauty and the growth of NLF is the evangelism that everyone, it's not one man based, everyone shares their life stories, testimonies with other people. So people like me, who are from Hindu

Brahmin background, somebody shared with me the good news of Jesus came not for Christians but everyone. So I gave my heart to Jesus.

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So I'm still Shekhar Kalianpur, I have not changed my religion or left of religion or join the religion. The transformation story of life of Jesus is that you become better father, better husband. So that's the new life working in us. This movement began though in a small place like a seed it became a plant and a tree, today it's like a forest, where we have more than thousands of home churches in Mumbai. We have churches all over India.

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We have churches in Delhi, Ludhiana, Andhra Pradesh, Calcutta, Mizoram, Imphal, Dimapur and even Lakshadweep Islands, Chennai, Kerala, Bengaluru you name it Maharashtra, all over. In Gulf countries, in Mascut. It's flourishing. That means suppose I find fulfillment in Christ. Jesus and my job, business takes me somewhere else... you cant sit in one place and remain because life of god, Christ in you is so bubbling with love and grace you cant sit quietly, you'll share your life and that's how NLF began. You know it was one place and not it has become like a forest.

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A dense forest, it's going all over.

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So NLF says it's a new Charismatic movement, could you explain us?

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See the word Charisma is speaking about life. Or expression, passion, gifting. Expression of what is inside of you. The character and the charisma they have to come together. Charismatic movement began with the freedom of the Holy Spirit in catholic churches in the world, also began spreading in Mumbai and India put together. But for the charismatic movement to continue and sustain you need the foundation, you need the word of god; you need character of god's word. To help you to understand NLF has a charismatic experience of freedom i the Holy Spirit but we're based on Gods word

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That means the foundation is Jesus, the foundation is the word of god, foundation is to do what gods word says. Now, if i don't do god's word in the character of Christ likeness and just experience the Charisma, the excitement and joy of just love of god and grace of god. If i don't walk in that grace, do not live in that life then it becomes Sunday morning, I'll jump in charisma but Monday morning I'll not be able to love my wife, children, be a better human being, better father, and better son. So it has to match the character and charisma together will help to find the call and destiny in god in us. so Shekhar Kalianpur was a sinner, he became a saint not by doing some good words or fasting and praying or not because of anything else simply because of finished work of Jesus.

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That makes a person like me a sinner and saint. And that sainthood life, Christ likeness has to grow. it can't on Sunday morning alone, it has to be Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday.

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It can be someday when everything is going fine going fine, hunky-dory and you're a wonderful man and tomorrow when things go bad you pick up a bottle and drugs and womanize, No! There's a

transformation of life. That's why we don't call ourselves charismatic or Pentecostal in terms but we're, we could say people who have experience of Holy Spirit based on god's word. So there's a balance, Jesus said you're light of the world and you're salt of the earth. So we have to bring up a balance as a salt and light of the world.

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Light is a visible influence, visible influence of expelling the darkness that means once I was addicted to smoke or mindful of lust, anger or whatever my weakness is but today when Christ came and embraced the forgiveness of the Jesus. It changed me, it transformed me, and I'm a better human being. There no more desire for lust, there's any more ager. It's not that I need alcohol or smoke or drugs like I needed before. So there's a change.

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At the same time, I'm the salt of the earth, invisible influence. You find salt in the king's house, in poor mans house. Salt is invisible, salt is used in the spice; salt is used in the ice-cream, sweet milk. Absence of salt is known, kindness can't be seen but impact you can experience. So when we say New Life Fellowship emphasis on god's word and fellowship of the Holy Spirit brings this balance of character and charisma, to do the destiny of call of god.

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And this is so desperately needed today, because Christianity today, also in the world, has become another religion. So people looks at us, "oh so you were Hindu not you're Christians" so I told them no, I'm the follower of Jesus Christ, I haven't left a religion to join another. I'm a disciple of Jesus. The Jesus left the heaven and came to earth not to take us to heaven of course we're going to heaven but he came to establish heaven on earth. Establish the kingdom of heaven on earth

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So he said turn away from sin and turn to god. So when you believe in Jesus, life changes. So what is in heaven, god, lie, love, and holiness, light is in heaven. So in trust in Jesus I'm not just becoming a Christian-Christian but heaven comes into my heart, my body becomes the temple of god. S hatred is gone, love comes in, sadness is gone, enjoy comes in. So kingdom of god is where righteousness, joy and peace.

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So righteousness comes in, so i have no more desire to do things, why because the greatest love you experience, every other love is nothing compared to the love of god, so new life is experiencing the heaven on earth. That means experiencing life, love, joy, peace in a daily walk.

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i can be a wonderful human being when there's nobody in the world. What's the use of being wonderful when there's no one I can react with. You confine me to Himalayas; you confine me to sit under a tree. You confine me to a place where there's no home and family. Anybody can sit as a holy man.

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But the holiness is expressed and permeates, it's only when you live with somebody you experience life. So here's an opportunity that with given circumstances and daily challenges of life, you can experience heaven on earth. You can experience love. Jesus said love your enemies, right?

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How can you love if you don't have enemies? If you love someone who loves you that's not called a love. So Christ coming in has got a new life, a transformation. So I'd say that as new life fellowship experience based on gods' word. A spirit filled brethren for understanding the theology, strongly based on gods words. Spirit filled of people filled with Pentecostal charismatic experience. So we have charismatic spirit filled, Pentecostal experience, but like brethren but based on gods word.

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So bring it together, Pentecostal. Baptist and Pentecostal are two different denominations but this is merging of coming together. That we have immersed in Christ there is no longer Shekhar lives, its Christ lives in me. My body has become a temple of living god. To experience god I don't have to go to a place, god himself has come to me. That's the beauty of new life fellowship.

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S: You separated Religion and spirituality and in India people always say that I'm a believer and not a Christian. The term used here is I'm a believer, do you think this separation of religion and spirituality is important in Indian context?

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Jesus himself is not a Christian, he was a Jew. Now god when he created, he created you and I all of us in his image and his likeness. Because of Adam and Eve's sin there were separated from god. So god paved the way to bring god and humanity together.

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Divinity and humanity together, so what he did was he continues to send his prophets, to bring forth the transformation in the life of people. He chose a nation from Abraham came for the nation, to bring further glory of god. But the man in his weaknesses of sin, sin is inside us, if you ask a child first six months, the cutest baby in the world all of us were. But after six months, eight months year or two, tell the child, please take this cup and put it in kitchen, not anywhere else but kitchen. No parent teaches children to do wrong, no college teaches young people to do wrong, no institution or country teaches people to do wrong. But how come there's increasing lawlessness, because sin is inside of us.

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The various things you want to do you can't do. The many things you shouldn't do you keep doing. Your cellphone will ring and you'll say tell them I'm not here. But then say lord thank you, you get me?. The one side you'll say thank lord and other side you'll tell them I'm not here.

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Life is like this for some people. Now religiously you can do what you're doing but on Sunday morning and leave your own life. On Sunday you can say god I need you, why because i got a shopping list. I need you god bless my need. But you don't walk with god on Sunday, on Mondays of life then you're just following a religion. All religions are good. What is religion is trying to search the go, like I was a Hindu, a Brahmin.

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Aham Bhramasi: to become one with the creator, the Brahma. Muslims, what are they looking for, Jannat to be one with Khuda. Jewish people, they're looking for their king to come. Everybody is looking for salvation. In Bible, Paul says everyone who calls on the name of the lord shall be saved. Who is this lord, I asked you a question? If I'm in a prison who can bail me out, you may say god that's a spiritual answer.

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somebody say parents or friends that's a good answer but legal answer is who can bail me out when I'm in prison, only the one who has never offended the lord. So if I'm the prisoner of sin, who can bail me, out? Only the one who has never sinned. You name any gurus in the world; you name any prophets, spiritual leaders in the world, any kings or human beings in the world, which was born man and woman. They're born biologically, so if you're born biologically, you sow a mango you rip a mango. You don't ripe pineapples. So we're all bound by sins, so out of sin what good can I grow. I'm bound in sin a blind leading another blind. So I'm in prison and you're in prison, i cannot bail you out only the one outside can. That's why the bible said Son of god.

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Jesus became son of man, so that we sons of men can become sons' god, so one who was not in prison bailed us out. so everybody on this earth is in sin. So Jesus came from the god who loved the world. That he gave his Jesus Christ. He doesn't say god loves Christians, good people, religious people, he never said god to love a sect of people called church, and god just loved the world. That he gave his son. But whosoever is Religious person, no religious person, rich, and poor, young, old it doesn't matter. Whosoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life.

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So you and I are believing in Jesus that's why the word believers. I believe in Jesus not in a religion called Christianity. So that's the difference. I believe in Jesus, I believe in what he says. I'm willing to be foolish enough to believe what he says.

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for e.g. somebody hurt me really if they be nasty to me and if i was in flesh, if i wasn't be controlled by the holy spirit probably I'll rap them, kick them or say whatever. But scripture says don't do evil to those who do evil. So because I'm a believer, i believe in Jesus but believe in what he says so even if he's not in here. It's like this if I'm a child my parents told me do not cross the road because of the traffic. Wait till the signal is green. So I wait there at zebra crossing following the instructions of my parents, I don't see them, so I'm a believer of my parents words. Though they're not there they spoke the word. So I believe them and I cross the road at green signal.

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Now if i cross the signal if it's red and the car knocks me down, I'm part of that family but I'm not a believer. So that's the difference, it's not a religion; it's one who believes in Jesus. So though you do not see him, you believe in him.

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Jesus said blesseth those who do not see me, but the see me. I don't see him but i know he's here. So if a thought comes, of its wrong, I won't do it. Why? Because I believe he's here, I believe what he said, and I believe what he told me to do. So when I obey him, by doing what he's doing, that is my relation with god. So it's not a religion but it's my relationship with god.

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It's like my wife, she's at home. I'm faithful to her, I'm loyal to her. Even if there are any challenges of temptation around there, okay, I'm committed to her. I'm loyal to her, so that's where my relationship with god is. So when I say I believe in Jesus, he died for me, he rose again, he conquered sin sickness, death and Satan. I believe he's alive and I believe he's coming back. He's not coming back as a baby, or son of god but he's coming back as a king of kings and lord of lords. He's the king of the universe; he

holds all the things together. Earth hangs on nothing, he was there even before the foundations of the earth. He was there even before the foundations of the creation of the earth.

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so the one who is the creator the great came as a son of god but I'm a believer I believe he's coming back now as the king of kings. So I'm not following a religion but I'm a believer in Christ Jesus.

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S: So pastor let's talk about the Power to change campaign.

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2010, we.... god put on our heart for city of Mumbai for the nation of India. One of the pressure points was god you saved me; I'm experiencing a new life. How the city will be saved, I'm just praying for the city. and god gave us the strategy, and second chronicle 7:14 says, "If my people call by my name, humble themselves, turn away from the wicked ways, repent and seek his face he says, I will hear their prayer, I will forgive their sins, I heal the land: these three things. So when we began to do that, the lord told me to repent on behalf of city of Mumbai.

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Repent on the behalf of the body of Christ. Earlier we would say, Oh, I'm a believer so I'm here (points up) others are here (points down). They are sinners, they are other church denominations. But god has brought ours right side up. We began to pray, to understand there is spiritual pride that got us to us place. We were looking down upon people, you adulterous woman and stone you know. So when I believe in Jesus and his word of god, gods word spoke to me. If you want city to be saved, if you want nation to be saved, then you have to be standing in the gap, like an ambassador between god and people.

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And pray like Moses. Like Jesus himself now in the heaven, he's praying for us. So we began this in 2010, and we prayed, we printed the pamphlet, distributed the thousands, 45,000 gave all the churches, catholic churches, Cni, csi, Pentecostal church all the churches. Let's pray, lets believe in god. and out of that prayers we've seen a great move the holy spirit has done, where corruption began to get exposed, things began to happen, where government began to shake, ministers lost their portfolio, things began to expose not only greed, corruption but womanizing, injustice, things began to come up. It was covered every year, whenever, but this got it uncovered.

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So that began to happen through the power of prayer, and then in last year Nov. 15th 2013, what we launch called power to change. It is a media campaign, using technology to bring life transformation. Like the billboard on the streets, TV cables, auto-rikshaw, railway station, inside the train, outside the train. It talks about the transformation of the changes in the lives of people. It's not a religious change, living a religion and joining another, but testimonies of 14 different people. There are people from Bollywood, people from street, there people from different religious background, people of affluence, people who are addicted so all levels of people.

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They are transformation where they found the vacuum in their life and Christ came in and transformed them and their life changed, their home changed. Their future changed. So those testimonies were a media blitz. And then we had a call center with 300 people attending it round a clock that means we have 1200 volunteer who were attending the calls. People like us in seniority, we were also there in praying and

attending, desperate calls. I have attended 8 desperate calls, most of them suicidal tendencies and they chose not to commit suicide.

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Now the strategy was this, people see this ad either on TV or wherever and they will see a toll-free number and they'll call us. Once they call at call center, we will not speak about god or Christ, we will not speak about religion, or anything of spirituality but let them know that there is a book available that has the stories of transformation of these people. And if they ask for the book we would release the book. So it's not forcing somebody to take it but giving the opportunity. Jesus are freely receive freely you give. So freely we gave. So if i have to give you have to take. God gave us oxygen but if you don't breath, it's not gods' fault it's mine.

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So there is an opportunity for people and in a month from November 2013 to December 2013 we have had almost 125,000 calls. We have distributed around 35,000 books and amazing an answer to love mumbai2020 prayer movement. we saw how all churches are coming together untidily one heart, one mind, one purpose and bearing down the denominations, dropping down the economic statuses, dropping down everything else. Love covers the multitude of sins. Just being untidily and working together hand to hand, it's like eyes, nose and hand and the feet. They were all, scattered but now body ahs come together under the headship of Jesus, to welcome the kingdom of glory in into the Mumbai city. So we're declaring Mumbai as a city of our god a model to nations of the world. We're declaring Mumbai as the city of righteousness, love and joy. We're declaring the city as model city for governance, a city set on a hill. And I believe the media blitz of Power to change is just a beginning.

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And it's birthing the great revival. And it happened in all glory to the great Jesus. God always uses people. SO people from Finland, my friend Hanu oka, His vision was to take it to the cities and to media. So people who can not read and write they can see this. They can respond and call. So people have called from all the strata's of society and with the body of Christ together. All churches came together.

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I had the privilege to serve the power to change as a convener. To bring in wisdom, to bring in whatever possible, resources of manpower, challenging our churches not just local church but the path to lead us together. We have other pastors of the city, senior pastors, and all churches coming together.

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So it was a beautiful experience till this day now we're at 7th of January, 2014. We've crossed 225,000 calls, 60,000 books distribution. We have extended power to change (PTC) beyond December 31st. tough the project may get over, the program may get over the life that we have to share will continue.

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So PTC has really brought sterling of revival within the church of Jesus Christ to rise up to new level. Like Isia 66 says Rise and shine for the glory for the lord is risen. So I believe it's the time, we hold onto the prophetic word that we have received in 95:96 that is "There will be platform to gods glory to the nations of the world" Indian is going to be a platform of gods glory to the nations of the world.

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Hinduism is born here and went to the world, Sikhism, Jainism, New age you name it. Everything was born here and went to the world. I believe that time has come the gospel of our lord Jesus Christ will go from this nation to the nations of the world.

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So I believe media blitz PTC is just the beginning. This continues not just in Mumbai but it'll go to Hyderabad, Chennai and other places. So it's beautiful. And body of Christ comes together. Some 133 says behold how good it is to brethren to dwell together in unity. So when they come together in unity it's like a family, you have 2-3 brothers, they all work untidily father is happy in the house. So I believe god is so delighted that goods people came together so father will bless rewards, glory, and favor. So I believe it's the best of the season. If anybody wants to serve god, Mumbai is the best place in the worked to come.

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S: Is this the first time in Mumbai at such large scale the public space was occupied by some kind of a message?

I don't think so; there were 2 or 3 occasions before. One in 70s there was a great media, those days there weren't TV, they used what you call it, I found it, and so there was a series of media blitz. I found it. So it was everywhere, I found it. So there was an inquiry what did you find?

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So it was like that. Then there was a Mumbai reach, India reach through TVs and stories of cartoon stories of gospel and people would call a toll-free number. So it has been there, but I'm a marketing guy, I was in Nestle. So if you want to sell your product you have to see it on TV, you have to see it on Billboard, in stores. So this is purely a marketing strategy.

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So you don't miss it. If you don't see it on TV you see it on Billboard, in trains, buses. You'll see it wherever and the mystery of it is PTC. Some people want power anyway want power. They went to feng shui, they went to tarot card. They run around Sun and moon and men and women to find some power. So people need power not as political power but money power. People have money but still they don't have power.

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People have political positions but still they don't have power. There are government leaders but they still don't have power to handle the lawlessness or handle the wrong things of the society. So you need to power which is beyond money, beyond political they power from above. And that power is god's power.

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Only god's power can overcome evil power. Only light can dispel the dark. So PTC is to help people to say, hey listen, we were in mess, we were in a problem like you, so you're not unique it's a common thing. But we found PTC you too can find. So the testimony of this is given in the book. SO people can read it, those who can not read it definitely they can see it on TV. So you have people speak on TV.

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This kind of visibility when given to project, with positive response sometimes attracts a little bit of negative energy also, so has there been any responses like that pastor?

Yeah, you see, ignorance of any truth will bring confusion. So naturally India a god fearing country, India is a Hindu country, there are Muslims, Sikhs, and religious people. So naturally over the years people have

understood, Christianity means conversion and which had been in early 60s-70s, where you take advantage of the poor, so that's the understanding.

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So you give money to poor man, naturally is he is hungry, so you say anything he'll follow. So that's kind of understanding or fear or things like that for e.g. that's not truth that's ignorance. For e.g. I'm transformed, earlier i was greedy man, earlier what is mine is mine, what is yours is also mine, that was my attitude. But now I found in new life fellowship, what is mine is not mine, what is mine is gods.

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So when god blesses me, I'd then share it with others who do not have. So when share that with you who do not have, you receive what you do not have, you received the love of god, we do not see god. So what happiness is that can be termed or misread. Now that has been the history of any place any religious part of the world.

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The point is it's not conversion. So when there is ignorance happening there is a resistance naturally politically they will use it. People will use politics in anything. Not necessary faith in Christ, tomorrow it can be football match, tomorrow it can be anything on the streets. People can use it politically for their advantage. The reality is, to answer your question, yes there was a resistance. So I had a call from NDTV which one of the national, international TV channels in India.

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They asked me, because some groups had resisted and they gathered and said, they will stop the roads, spot the streets, we will go to the house of these people. So she asked me, the journalist asked me, she said, "Mr. Shekhar, are you guys converting people?" So I told her conversion or converting is a wrong word, it's a bad word.

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So I countered her with my question, I told her, if alcoholic is delivered from the alcohol what would you call it. She said its transformation, I said no it's conversion, and she said it's transformation. That's it. If the person was addicted to drugs, if a man was beating his wife, a woman was bound in alcohol or anything of that sort, so they have found power that is delivered them from the power of alcohol, drugs and sin or whatever you call it. SO that is called transformation, these are the stories of these people; that on their own they can not be changed. For e.g. Johnny Lever *sahab*, is a film actor, there was one guy who called us at the call center, he was committing suicide, that means he was about to jump towards the train.

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The train was coming; he saw the picture, on the toll free number. So these guys, they said, because I'm the senior pastor in the city, any desperate call would be given to us. So i said yes, he said I'm about to jump on the train, I'm waiting for train to come. I said why you want to jump. He said I'm very poor man, he spoke in Hindi, he said I'm very poor man, desperate, my wife, my son, my brother are going to jump on the train. Then I asked him a question, a reasonable question, do you think by jumping your family will be happier? He said no, and then I asked him another question, to get him engrossed and not jump. Imagine if you jump, your hands cut off, your legs cut off and you don't die, you'll be suffering for another 15 years do you know this?

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That made him think, now why am I telling him this. I'm telling him by the power of Holy Spirit in me to bring him wisdom. Not conversion but telling him that there is god who cares for him who loves him. Then I told him, why did you call us, you're jumping from the train on the track. He said Sir I saw the number. What did you see; he said I saw the number. I said what else did you see? He said Johnny Lever. I said you saw Johnny lever, He's like the jerry Lewis of India. He makes people laugh; you know the man who makes the whole world laugh was himself crying within.

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You want to jump and die, because you're poor, he is a man of wealth but still he didn't have peace. He didn't have the joy and liberty. He said, is it so? I said yes.

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What happened? I said his son had cancer, he was alcoholic, but when he trusted in god, god delivered him from alcohol, god delivered and he listened. Today he's transformed and you can get to know this by reading this book. That man chose not to commit suicide and asked for the book and we gave him the book within 24 hours. Now, when these kid of changes happened, it happens from, the man who believer of Jesus in terms of Catholic or angelical or Methodist or other Christian background, it doesn't make a difference, you see.

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But if Shekhar Kalianpur who is from Brahmin background, is now (delivered?) of alcohol, delivered and now is a follower of Jesus, and then it becomes a problem. So then asked a question, I asked a question to a woman, if you're husband becomes better husband, loves you more than before, will you be happy? I asked a father if your son is no more an addict, if he becomes a better son, will you be happy? Jesus did not come to make us bad to worse; he came to make us from good to best.

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God gave his best so you and can become best human being. Not only in behavior but have the life best ever till eternity. That means when I'm giving you this interview, if I die today, I don't know where you're going but I know where I'm going, because my name is written in the book of life.

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So that's the PTC. That's the beauty. So when people do not understand the power, with wrong information, political misuse, there's the abuse of the truth, because they don't know what it is. They resist. So what happens, somebody uses somebody and he goes and shouts there. They may get their bread and meat, they may get their jobs, so may get their little courses done. So I told this lady from NDTV, madam it's not conversion, its transformation.

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Then she said now I understand what the PTC is.

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S: Pastor there are lot people who have born in in different religious families are becoming believers, also in India many states are coming up with Anti conversion Laws and there are many churches and people are facing violence against them. Could you elaborate it or what's your take on this?

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You see, very good question, this is a real challenge. Challenge in the sense there are two facets to this phenomenon, number 1 is a spiritual phenomenon and other is natural. Spiritual phenomenon is there is

a god, there is evil, there is light, there is darkness, there's god, there's devil. Scriptures says son of god became son of man. God became man, divinity became humanity. To destroy the works of enemy, that's what 1 john 38 says. so to answer your question. There's a facet, a spiritual part, unseen world.

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Holy Spirit you don't see but you experience the power. Alcoholic is deliberate, you see the power to change. I'm a sinner, man full of anger, rebellion you see the change in my life. I become a better human being everyday, I see god, I see power of Holy Spirit working in me everyday. So there's the spiritual force that delivers me from the darkness. When I believe in Jesus that power of sin is broken. So past is forgiven, present, there no power of sin. My body has become a temple of god.

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Now if I dies I'm no more on this earth, I'm absent in this body, i go to the heaven in the presence of god, where there's no presence of sin. So past of sin is taken care then I give my life to Jesus, the power of sin is broken, so when I die I go to heaven where there is no presence of sin, god himself all over, heaven. Moksha, Salvation.

0:44:05.207

Now, to answer your question, there's warfare, between life and darkness. There's warfare between good and evil so god wants to save, he's a good shepherd, and he doesn't want a single sheep to be lost. He didn't come for his own; son of god didn't come for his own. He came for mankind, he came for the lost. So who are all people who are lost, Lost from god. Who deprived of love, deprived of joy. love has no religion, joy has no religion.

0:44:41.326

So joy is for everyone whether you're Hindu or Muslim or anything. Even for an atheist who doesn't believe in god need joy. If there's no joy, imagine we're having banquet and there's no joy. Imagine if you're married but no joy, imagine you're doing this interview but you're not enjoying it, it's a drag. Joy is such a great essence a life, joy, peace. So Jesus came to bring the joy, to bring the kingdom of heaven on earth righteousness, joy and peace.

0:45:17.086

So there is warfare spiritually, which you can not see. That is why sin is increasing, you saw what happened on September 2011, two planes destroyed, thousands of people got killed. You saw what happened in Iraq war. You see what is happening in nations. Jesus says in the last days, there is gonno be increase is lawlessness, nations against nation, today two brother can not see eye to eye. There's a rift between husband and wife, family and children. There's a division. So what is enemy doing, Satan comes to kill and destroy. So that is a spiritual part.

0:45:55.526

You led by the spirit, you turn away from the sin, you become righteous. You led by the evil spirit, you resist the light. You ask an alcoholic and you tell him, that drinking is bad and it'll kill you he will agree with you 1000%. But he'll still go and drink.

0:46:13.326

No alcoholic in the world need a GPS. You put him in any corner of the world within 30 second he'll come to know where you get the alcohol. How come? It's because the bondage is driving him. You tell drug addicts, don't rob things. He'll rob his own family; he will rob his own people. I've seen so many of these; they're killing their own parents.

0:46:38.086

For the drugs. Do they not know that they should not kill? They know it, but they're bound in some power. That is controlling them, drugs is just a substance. It doesn't have power of his own, but there's a spiritual power that is controlling.

0:46:55.203

So Jesus came to destroy the works of the enemy, that's the truth. That's a fundamental foundation, now, a person like me, who is a non-Christian, who is not born Christian but Hindu. People like me, of influence or people from poor strata from higher strata, you were an object, a part of culture, a part of ethos, a part of a movement of a society, so when you find life, you're free from bondage. You're free from the power of sin.

0:47:34.646

You find life, so when you find life you associate with life. So it's not swimming with the tide but against the tide. You're no more walking towards the wider gate but to the narrow gate. So people wonder why you're not doing what we're doing.

0:47:55.527

That's okay with me if people of influence, people who're establish in society, I do not have much challenges. But imagine that is to the same person, who's working for somebody said I will not do this. What will happen, people who're stronger than him, emotionally, financially, can abuse that freedom. And say you'll not do it.

0:48:19.927

For example, if I'm person who's doing wrong things. I have 100 employees, they are illiterate, they don't know to read and write. Let's say their wages are 50\$/day. Let's say 200Rupees/ day. I make them work, the wages are for 8 hours, but I make them work for 16 hours. Instead of giving them 50\$ as wages, i give them 10\$ and sign them a receipt of 50\$. There's no proof of evidence but it's happening all over.

0:49:13.004

Not necessary Christians or non-Christians it's happening in society. The greed of money and power, you get me, there's a gross abuse. So when somebody finds Christ, is a freedom number 1. Now we will help educate them, why? Because we don't poor to be poor, we want them to be literate. Find themselves stand on their own feet. We don't want them to be beggars, we don't want them to be under the atrocities of the economic situation where they're in.

0:49:46.444

So we give them education. Why? Because we love god and we love people. The greatest commandment Jesus said is Love god and love people. Now think about this. We educate somebody. Who didn't know how to read and write. Now they know how to read and write. Now they know 1+1 is 2.

0:50:05.885

Not by counting 1+1 is 2, they know how to read and write. They know how to read and write in Hindi, English or whatever the major languages are. Now they come to me, I'm the boss and I'm giving them 50\$ on paper and I give 100\$ a wage. If I'm giving 2000Rs salary but I'm actually giving 500rupees that guy will say, sir thank you so much but what is this? You're paying me only this much.

0:50:37.127

How come you're asking me questions? He will not think from the right perspective, as a good human being. He will say oh you've converted. He will not say you've shown justice. You give them the means to stand on their own feet.

0:51:01.167

Though they know it's doing well to them, but because of the greed and the blindness and the craving for power to control the lives of people, I will politicize it and use it as conversion rather than actually confronting the truth. That Jesus came to bring justice, Jesus came to give identity. A woman was prostitute; no woman would want to be prostitute on her own. Never. Why was she a prostitute? She was a prostitute because of whatever reason; it was a product of environment. Jesus came to give her identity. And what happened? Everybody was stoning her so when Jesus came on the scene, Jesus's guard knew all the men who had slept with her.

0:51:56.960

And what did he say? He who has not sinned, stone, none of them did it. Why? Because everyone one of them had some relationship with her. Now who had the right to hit the stone? Jesus. But he doesn't do it. He said say no more. Now what happened, that beautiful woman is no more available as a product of abuse for these people for their lust. They said stone this guy because he has taken away our pleasure.

0:52:29.046

So there is a spiritual facet, there is a natural facet. it cannot be gone by saying ill become a good human being, from tomorrow I will not do this, because you are bound in power. I'm a prisoner of sin. I need deliverance. And that can only come from one who I believe, that's why this is a challenge. He's a good friend Jesus, died for the whole world. Whosoever believes in him will not perish but have everlasting life. That is why you see the Bible, not only poorest of poor follow Jesus.

0:53:25.010

You need to understand that power of God's love nobody can resist not even devil. If you make the right choice, then you are willing to suffer. Jesus said suffer not being adulterer or murderer but suffers for doing right. If somebody slaps your right cheek, give him your left cheek. Love your enemies. Eye for an eye the new covenant of Jesus' love is forgive them. The Bible says even if you look at a woman with lust, you already committed adultery.

0:54:13.106

There's a transformation of inside out. Religion is outside but believing in Jesus is changing you inside, so people don't understand this. So when people cannot abuse anymore, they resist it. So it's economic, it has nothing to do with spirituality. Indian circles we have seen resistance in many places - Orissa, Maharashtra, Rajasthan. Most of them have nothing to do with anything else, the root is this. The poorest are not available for people for exploitation. For example, if there is a group of people and there is a man standing for election and he just feeds people and says give me vote, gives alcohol. Tomorrow they'll say we don't need alcohol, we don't need food. We are working on our own, we won't give you vote because you are a corrupt man. He lost his control over those people.

0:55:31.082

So you can use that as a political economic situation. There is not a single man in India and the earth who can say I trusted in Jesus. I was here I have gone down. Never. Everyone who trusts in Jesus, the Bible says, shall be saved. Jesus said whoever trusts in me will never be put to shame. I am a follower of Jesus the last 36 years, I never think God forsaken me. Never even once.

0:56:10.090

And I know for sure for eternity. That's the glorious hope. Sam says in book of Sam 55 Then I was young now I am old. I've never seen a righteous forsaken or his children begging from bowl. You trust in Jesus, you'll never be a beggar.

0:56:29.791

You live hand to mouth. I live hands to mouth you feel sorry for me. Yes, God's hand in my mouth. The trust in the Lord.

0:56:52.522

Question: There is a whole notion of this is Western culture coming in, Christianity, which is going to spoil the Hindu culture. And now you've become Christian so you are going to start wearing a dress and stop wearing a saree or whatever. These kinds of conceptions are also there. Can you just reflect on that and how Church deals with this when new believers come in?

0:57:28.927

You got to read my book. You are born natural it will help you to think. But whoever believes in Jesus, like Shekhar Kallianpur picked me up and brought me to a place of position. God is my provider, I have a home and family and children. No American dollar provided for me, it's my own hard work. God blessed me I had a job, I was in Nestle, I was general manager of an American company, so my life has been a blessing. God blessed me in making me a blessing. Now I'm committed fulltime serving God as a leader of nation.

0:58:21.669

I believe in the last 25-30 years, that India can be a self supporting church. Yes at one time the church in India needed help. Today I am blessed. If I see somebody on the street, I will help them. I help them not to convert them, from micro is goes to macro level. The Western world which is primarily the Christians believe in Jesus would love to help those people from poor backgrounds, poor countries, to help them. But I believe the trend is changing. Today American is more Jesus than any country in the world.

0:59:19.600

Europe needs. Why? Coz their churches are getting empty, mosques, temples, gurudwaras have taken over. People have lost hope in Christianity. The truth is, they are following religion. But if you follow the Christ of the Christian or Christ of the Bible, then you'll become a giver. So I believe it's going to be reverse now. India is going to be sending missionaries all over the world. India is going to be a self supporting nation.

0:59:53.681

So it's not conversion it's transformation. So people are coming today from all walks of life. Earlier you would see the poorer strata. But today in the church you will see very successful people. People from Bollywood, educationists, people well established, businesses, politics. I've shared the gospel with Prime minister, chief ministers. Poor man needs rich man's wealth, rich man needs poor man's health. Everyone has got needs, and god has used me for people of the higher strata of society. I have shared the gospel with JRD Tata, Hindu national leaders, with everyone - politically or spiritually you name it.

1:00:57.049

I've shared the gospel with Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, Thackeray family. Why? Because good news everybody needs. There is a common disease that everybody has everybody who is born biologically and that disease is called sin. Sin has no religion, whether the poorest of poor or richest of rich. All are going to die. If you

do not know Jesus, then your life is your personal savior. Why Jesus? Why not someone else? Because everybody died, never came back to life.

1:01:40.643

Everybody was born biologically. You name any guru of the world. You name ram, his father is dusherra. You name Mohammed, his father is Abdullah, Buddha - his father is dushyanth, Confucius, and everybody has their own biological father. Why uniqueness of Jesus? Not to spread Christianity. Yes it is, but the point is it has nothing to do with religion. God became man so Jesus came for the whole world.

1:02:09.678

Like oxygen. There is no special gas for Hindus or Muslims. Sun rises in the east of Mumbai or India or the world. It shines on all of us, whether you are Chinese or Japanese. Japanese are the first people in the world to receive sunshine that's a privilege they have but it's for every one of us. We need to understand that Jesus is not a Christian God. He came for the whole world. Whosoever believes will not perish but will have an everlasting life. And I believe that we are in that season.

1:02:44.963

And that season is God's love is being poured out. Not just the poor, but the rich. There is a vacuum in every Indian and that vacuum can only be filled by God by his spirit when Jesus comes in the heart. When that reality of truth comes, There's a portion in the Bible, A guy called Murderer, his name was Sol he was ignorant he was blinded by religion but when he experienced the truth of God's love, that murderer became a life giver. And I believe the same thing for those who are prosecuting. They are blinded they do not know the truth. The moment they come to know the truth, they will be ashamed of what they are doing.

1:03:36.604

Why? Simply because of ignorance, the church in India will rise up, become self supporting. They will no more be depending on almighty dollar but on almighty. And god will provide all our needs for spiritual transformation and social transformation, light and the soul together. India will become a platform of God' glory and Mumbai will become the gateway. That's why I'm passionate about it. I want to see hell empty and heaven full. So this is the time for us to see India transform.

1:04:16.806

And that can only happen in the name of Jesus. Question - If a new believer comes say from a Hindu background, people think ok now you are not going to wear saree, what are the cultural things that people carry forward, what do they let go?

1:04:37.404

Jesus never came to change our culture. He came to establish the kingdom, and the kingdom has its own culture. Indian culture is beautiful. For example, parents are honored by touching their feet. Scripture says honor your father and mother for a long life. Women will cover their head in the midst of worship. It's found in Biblical times, in Jewish culture. So Jesus dint come to change the culture at all.

1:05:27.281

Men wearing pants is Western culture. People have culture of the geographical location they are living in. Men walk with maybe just a banyan or shirt; you can't do that in Iceland. You have to wear a suit or cover yourself. Culture came in with geography around you. Western culture has nothing to do with faith. Those who are atheists in India they are not followers of Jesus, they are not even believers of God but they wear Western clothes.

1:06:54.161

It's a misconception. Jesus came to establish the kingdom culture; our morals enhanced the cultural behavior. For example, honoring your father and mother, respecting the elders is part of the culture. This is very biblical. Do not eat meat, for e.g. in India many Hindus do not eat meat which is part of the Hindu culture, but I know many Hindus, who will not eat at home but will eat at the middle of the night when nobody is watching. So eating meat is not just a western culture. Those who came along with their culture in India - to put it very crudely to say because you are a follower of Jesus you are following a western culture is not really true.

1:08:15.680

Now for example I became a follower of Jesus in 1979. I was wearing pants even before that; I was wearing a jacket even before that. I am a Brahmin at home we didn't eat non-veg but I would eat non-veg hiding, without telling my parents. I did that even before I became a follower of Jesus. So people asked me now that you are a follower of Jesus, are you not eating meat?

1:08:39.168

I used to eat meat before also. I did not love alcohol before; I do not love alcohol even now. So Jesus came and changed my lifestyle. It became a kingdom lifestyle, don't smoke don't drink, I don't need those things. Earlier I needed it to satisfy myself but today when God had come inside of me I have a high value that I need to keep this body as a temple, pure and clean. When I got married in 88, my friends would ask me Shekhar now that you are a follower of Jesus, at your wedding you will give a lot of alcohol because Christians drink.

1:09:18.923

That's the challenge that India is facing. In Indian cinema you see a Christian is depicted as the one who drinks a womanizer or a cabaret dancer. This is incorrect. It is injustice to speak to about because Bible never speaks about those kinds of lifestyles. It never came from the west. Some people in a geographical area had a certain lifestyle embracing and they thought that is Christianity or that is what culture of Christians is.

1:10:02.688

It is incorrect. Jesus never said you go drink, you do womanizing, and Jesus came to design us, to get us out of sin, to get us out of the bondage and corruption, to swim against the tide. So to say for a woman to give up sarees when she becomes Christian, a staunch religious legalistic hold will say do not wear this or do not do this or do not eat this. But Christ came to liberate us. I am a pastor; if I go to south India they say pastor should not wear jeans.

1:10:50.006

I wear torn jeans when I preach. So by wearing torn jeans, the presence of God is not going to be less. Jesus said what comes out of your mouth gets cleaner and unclean. It's not what you eat or wear that makes you clean or unclean. So it's nothing to do with what I wear, it's what is inside my heart come out of my mouth. So my faith, life, and character in Jesus I be like who I worship. I worship a stone, I become like a stone. I worship a man, I become like a man who I worship.

1:11:29.354

When I worship God who selflessly loves, I become like him. Christ likeness. So Jesus did not come to change religion, but Jesus came to bring a transformation of life inside, which itself brings the value of my life not what I wear or eat or not eat but what I am because of my faith in Jesus. That's the reality that the

world is yet to know.

1:11:55.570

Previously you did talk about love Mumbai and certain activities. Can you also talk about the prayer that you do at Bandstand and why Bandstand, what's the thought behind it?

1:12:09.490

Love Mumbai is a passion for praying for Mumbai. God loved Mumbai. Jesus already died for 22million people of Mumbai. He's not going to die, he has already died, and he has already forgiven them. Now the point is that they are spiritually blinded and for that to go the only thing to do is to pray and repent on behalf of them.

1:12:34.930

That's what the scriptures say. Ask and it shall be given, seek and knock and the door will be open so I'm asking on behalf of them. It's like a father on behalf of the children. So God has given me a love for the city like a father. To pray for our families, whether Hindu or Muslim I will not look at them and say they are nobody. I look at them like they are the children of my father and I am their brother and sister.

1:13:04.868

So i take a moral and spiritual responsibility on behalf of Mumbai to pray for Mumbai city, i go in the early hours and pray and intercede for them and say God forgive us. We repent on behalf of their sins. Like in any home or family, if the child does wrong, suppose a little baby goes and hits another baby, what will the father and mother do? Oh I'm sorry about what my baby did so the parents repent on the behalf of the children. So spiritually we have owned the responsibility.

1:13:35.876

As worthy citizens of the country and heaven, we took the moral responsibility of the father. That's what the religion is. I receive freely and give, that's what the faith in Christ is. I can go home and sleep and enjoy my life and enjoy that I'm going to heaven, will God love me yet? Of course, that's why Jesus came. Jesus didn't save Shekhar, through Shekhar, he can save mankind.

1:14:08.877

So love Mumbai is purely that. Even if I lose my sleep for three hours, it's worth losing it because by losing it, I am investing my time. Instead of sleeping, when Mumbai is sleeping, I can pray. Even this morning I prayed. So every day I pray.

1:14:25.069

Does going to that particular location have any..? No there's no spiritual, there's no holy place. Yes, the film star Shahrukh Khan is staying there and the beach is there. There is no special attraction to that place. We have divided Mumbai into 12 districts, and I live in a geography which is one of the districts. So rather than me asking somebody else to go, I choose to take the responsibility.

1:15:00.328

So as a leader, I lead myself by being an example to the city believers. I can be a preacher who preaches but never practices, and then it's all empty. I have to first practice before I preach. Jesus said love the world, so we have to demonstrate that give an example. So my responsibility as a spiritual father of the city is to be a role model. If I don't pray, how can I ask you to pray?

1:15:28.082

If I don't obey, how can I ask you to obey? It's like a policeman, if he doesn't follow the rule, how can he ask the you know.. So I become a responsible human being, responsible father of the city, only because of God's love. Earlier, you ask me do you love sleep, of course I love to sleep. I can think of sleep after this interview. But the point is, I choose to sacrifice my pleasures and likings, or what I love simple because God loves these people.

1:16:02.487

That's how we call it Love Mumbai 20/20. It doesn't mean after 20/20, our love for Mumbai is over. I believe Christ may come before that. And if He comes afterwards, we will continue Love Mumbai 21/21. 20/20 is a natural healthy vision so that's the vision that we have.

1:16:28.311

Recently your Church went live online and you talked about church without walls, so can you tell us more about that?

1:16:38.882

2005 I have been dreaming. If I have to share this good news about Jesus, the love of God, the forgiveness of God, if I go one on one, I may have to live million years. In God's presence. One life I live and I want to live it fully. I want to take technology, media; internet put together and uses it, to hasten the message of giving the love of God. So we do live streaming, television. I believe to reach one billion souls; I have to plant a million churches.

1:17:24.322

When I'm talking to you, if it's live streamed, millions of people will watch in their homes. So church is not a building or organization, it is without walls, it is you and I. So share the love of God, Jesus did not come to change our religion, but to experience. He said I am building my church. Church is not a building. He is not building a building, organization, but he is building you and I. So the vision God has given us is becoming a reality.

1:17:56.727

It is to share the gospel of Jesus by using the latest technology, media. I believe if Jesus was now here, he would use the television. He would use every media. But he is not here, he has given you and I the opportunity so that we can use it. So media is a great blessing. The Bible says the second coming of Jesus which is very soon, in the book of revelation, behold he is coming. The Bible says whole Earth will see.

1:18:28.601

How will the Earth see? I can't see America from here. I can't see Japan or Pune from here. How will the world see Christ coming? A plane flies, the whole world can see. How can the whole world see Christ coming? It's through television, internet, Facebook, Twitter. People are going to see the coming of Jesus. There are seven signs of his second coming. No. 1 - 80% of the world already knows the gospel, 20% is remaining. Through media, another 20% will believe in God.

1:19:02.206

Number two, the sons of Israel, the Messianic Jews are increasing. Number three, sons and daughters of Jerusalem are coming back home. There is increasing lawlessness; he may come within the next 10 years, who knows? So you and I have a mandate, to prepare the world for the second coming of Jesus. First time when he came, he was insignificant baby in the manger, but this time he is not coming as a baby.

1:19:41.406

He is no more a baby or a cross; he has risen from the dead. Everybody can deny and say no he's not coming or that we don't believe in what the Bible says, but I'm telling what he said he's coming, he's coming back. It's going to be a reality. The six and the seventh sign, is I'm building my church, radiant, glorious, powerful. The church without sin. These two signs are about to get fulfilled. 2014 is a glorious year; he's going to pour out his glory in God's people so that you and I walk out as a powerhouse of God to hasten the second coming of Jesus. So you and I take the benefit of media.

1:20:30.921

So that's how we are using the technology. And I just love. It's the best time on Earth to live, it's this time. Thank you Pastor, thank you for your time.

1:20:56.721