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A “NEW” YOU

This ‘**NEW LIFE**’ (focused) Booklet / eBook is the ‘out-growth’ of a similar type publication (dated: 12/12/12; entitled: ‘**The “GLOW” of Happiness / ‘FIT’ for Purpose**’) and ‘follow-on’ (monthly) articles on website ‘**Konect 1-2-1**’.

Note: Key (‘vital’) foundational ‘concepts and explanations’ are presented on ::: www.konect-1-2-1.com ::: under **VISION, MEMORIES, PONDER, FORMATION & PRACTICE.**

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The “GLOW” of Happiness ::: meaning -

If we ‘feel’ the “GLOW” elements ::: **Goodness, Lovableness, Openness, Worthwhileness** ::: on the ‘inside’ of our lives, they will “**show**” on the ‘outside’ (also).

* * * * *

‘FIT’ for Purpose ::: message -

“Flee to God always”

“Invoke God’s help constantly”

“Thank God in everything”

CONTEXT

‘Without God’s Action (in lives) all is dead’

“Because I (Christ) live, you, also, will live”

(John 14:19)

CONTENT

The “GIFTS” of JOY : Affirm Bless Celebrate

“DISCIPLESHIP” (‘for you’ / ‘for everyone’)

“THE WAY” (‘VIA’)

The “GIFTS” of JOY - Affirm Bless Celebrate -

There is a massive ‘**social and spiritual disconnect**’ in ‘**LIFE**’. At a ‘high’ level of ‘connectivity’ we feel : ‘**Loved Inspired Fulfilled Engaged**’ (‘**LIFE**’). And, at a ‘low’ level of ‘connectivity’ we feel : ‘**Lonely Insecure Frustrated Exploited**’ (‘**LIFE**’). What all this ‘tells us’ is ::: ‘**LIFE**’ is a **relationship** (not a **transaction**). The ‘**heart of the matter**’ is the ‘**ability-to-relate**’.

What, exactly, are these “GIFTS”? ::: **AFFIRM** (i.e. **recognise** ‘the person’ and **accept** ‘the person’) ::: **BLESS** (i.e. **acknowledge** ‘the person’ and **bond** with ‘the person’) ::: **CELEBRATE** (i.e. **welcome** ‘the person’ and **connect** with ‘the person’). Here is ‘**WHERE**’ we touch the very ‘**core**’ of our ‘**Be-ing / Be-coming**’. Unless we (i.e. each and every ‘person’) are “GIFTED” these vital elements of ‘**childhood**’ (‘foundational nature / formational nurture’) we ‘end up’ in a ‘limbo’, struggling to find ‘meaning / relevance / purpose’ in ‘**LIFE**’.

And, ‘**WHERE**’ does **JOY** enter ‘**LIFE**’? The Bible story of the world meeting **Jesus the Christ** - “*I have come that you may have life and have it to the full*” (John 10:10) - is the manifest story of the world finding **JOY** ::: “*Shout with joy to the Lord, all the earth - - -*” (Psalm 98:4) ::: “**Joy to the world! the Lord is come - - -**” (Christmas carol / Isaac Watts).

The ‘context’ for the **The “GIFTS” of JOY** ‘title / theme’ is the journey of ‘discovery’ undertaken in Booklet / eBook (**The “GLOW” of Happiness / ‘FIT’ for Purpose**) and the (follow-on) website articles, which ‘explored’ ‘**LIFE’s** **social and spiritual disconnect**’. See, also, ‘**declaration**’ across (‘**Konect 1-2-1**’) ‘front page’.

Along the way, we have ‘pictured and compared’ the ‘**excitement / astonishment**’ of our ‘entry into this world’ to a ‘piece of luggage’ arriving and spinning around (in hit and miss mode) on an airport carousel. The critical question - if we could read a “**baby**” (a “**parcel**”) mind - is: will I “**Be-accepted**” or will I “**Be-rejected**” or will I “**Be-betwixt and between**”?

When we are born into this world we are still a ‘**BLANK**’ to some degree. We are, probably, the most ‘**helpless and vulnerable**’ of all (“**baby**”) creatures. So, among all possible probabilities, the question each new “**baby**” instinctively asks is ::: “**Who am I?**” ::: “I’m “**unique**” and, yet, “**alone**” ::: And, harsh reality says to me: “**you are nobody until somebody loves you**”.

In the story of creation : **God** (for his part) offers his children : ‘**gift / grace / glory**’. And, so, the question is : ‘who on earth in heaven’s name’ is going to ‘**receive / restore / return**’ his children? What is left ‘hanging in the air’ is the mystery of the **Incarnation / Trinity**.

The **Incarnation** reveals how **Jesus the Christ** subsists in two natures : ‘divine and human’. This ‘**relationship**’ of **God** and **Man** was defined by St. Athanasius, as follows: “The Son of God became the Son of Man in order that the sons of men might be made sons of God . . . He is Son of God by **nature**, we by **grace**”.

The **Trinity** can be ‘portrayed’ as ::: ‘**Father / Son / Holy Spirit**’ ::: ‘**The Love that Loves to Love**’. **Note**: everything about the **Trinity** is : ‘**Reciprocal / Mutual / Complementary**’. So, as per last paragraph of **Booklet / eBook** ::: “we should recognise and acknowledge in

ourselves the **God** who made us in His own image, **'for if we do this'**, we in turn will be recognised and acknowledged by our **Maker**".

Enter **Mary** and **Joseph** ::: they set a **'role'** example for **'ordinary / everyday'** life, in terms of "**Mary as a mother**" and "**Joseph as a father**" ::: **Mary** is the **'bosom'** of **'family life' / 'church life'** and **Joseph** is the **'provider'** for **'family life' / 'church life'**. On this foundation was laid the **'childhood' / 'manhood'** of **Jesus the Christ**, who took his humanity from mankind and thus connected his **'sacrifice'** - **'passion, death and resurrection'** - with every person ::: *"for God so loved the world that he gave his only Son - - - in order that the world might be saved through him"* (John 3:16-17). What is true of **Christ** by **'nature'** is true of humanity by **'grace'**.

Now, as you may know, there is an **'obstacle' / a 'stumbling block' / a 'default condition'** in our **'inheritance'** due to our **'fallen human nature'** (i.e. **'darkened understanding' / 'weakened will' / 'strong inclination to evil'**) ::: we are, in reality, miserable **'sinners'** who are **'liable / prone / open'** to sin. So, **'WHERE'** does **God** come in? Here's the **'simple'** answer ::: **God** has made **'PRO'VISION** (i.e. **VISION** of **'Perfect Relational Order'**). And, **Jesus the Christ** summarised same in the **'one'** Prayer he gave his disciples ::: **The Our Father**.

Without **'assured base connectivity'** (**'ABC'**) in **'family life' / 'church life'** we are **'on our own'** - **'abandoned / isolated / lonely'** - without any **'real'** sense of **"who I am"** as a person. We are **'unable to relate'** ::: we feel **'inadequate / inferior / insecure'** ::: we tend to swing between **"highs"** (**'inflation'**) and **"lows"** (**'deflation'**). And, all for the want of a **'significant other person'** - **'another Christ'** - in our lives ::: to **'Affirm Bless**

Celebrate' (**'ABC'**) our unique **'goodness'** ::: our unique **'identity'** and **'value'**.

In review: here's the essence of the above –

1. **'LIFE'** (**'Be-ing' / 'Be-coming'**) is **"'GIFTED'"** (in all its dimensions).
2. Without **'birthing' (Single) / 'bonding' (Social) / 'baptising' (Spiritual)** we do not **'Be-long'** (i.e. there is no **'WHERE'** we **'long to Be'**).
3. **JOY** is **'WHERE'** every **'PERSON'** (**'child / teenager / adult'**) is **'AFFIRMED / BLESSED / CELEBRATED'** (**'ABC'**) as **'another Christ'**.

Prayer: **'Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you, we praise you, we adore you; we hope in you, we trust in you and we love you, Lord Jesus; give us grace, Lord, the fullness of grace, like Mary & Joseph, to live the sanctity of your divine will, today & forever'**.

Daniel (www.konect-1-2-1.com) 25/03/2017

1st "'33"' GIFT

*"I am with you"
"Listen to me, as I speak to you"*

“DISCIPLESHIP” (‘for you’ / ‘for everyone’)

This blog seeks to ‘translate into practice’ the ‘theory’ set out in the ‘**special edition**’ article, issued on the feast-day of the **Annunciation** (25/03/2017), under the ‘title / theme’ ::: **The “GIFTS” of JOY : Affirm Bless Celebrate.**

So, to ‘link-up’, let’s repeat that article’s central message ::: **Jesus the Christ** said ::: *“I have come that you may have life and have it to the full”* (John 10:10) ::: by this is meant ::: ‘I have come to make my ‘**LIFE**’ your ‘**LIFE**’. This “**DISCIPLE**” (‘**model of life**’) / “**DISCIPLESHIP**” (‘**mission for life**’) can be summarised in three letters ::: “**ICI**” :::

- Invitation to “come” : ‘**Relationality**’
- Challenge to “go” : ‘**Responsibility**’
- I am with you “*always*” : ‘**Restoration**’

The ‘vital’ question for each (and all of us) is : where do I fit into the ‘**divine-human**’ scheme of things? We have been created by **God** in his “*image / likeness*” ::: “**GIFTED**” our ‘**value**’ and ‘**identity**’ (i.e. our innate ‘**goodness**’). And, the mystery of our ‘make-up’ has been ‘encoded’ in three “**In’s**” ::: ‘**Instinct** (our gene ‘control’ system) ::: **Intellect** (our nerve ‘learning’ system) ::: **Incarnate-trinity** (our divine ‘guidance’ system).

The dis-functional ‘**anarchy / angst / anxiety**’ we experience in ‘**LIFE**’, arises when these “**In’s**” are in conflict. Such is the story of the ‘fallout’ from “**The Fall**” (involving Adam & Eve). And - likewise - in order to cope with similar ‘**fear / guilt / shame**’ we (too) seek “**escape**” / “**refuge**” / “**hide**” in default mode (‘**wounded**’ / ‘**touchy**’ / ‘**the way I am**’). **Note:** you (too) become “**frightened**” ::: you ‘**vow**’ you will never allow

any ‘**painful** (“**feel how you feel**”) **shock**’, happen to you (again). Thus, the ‘original human catastrophe’ has contaminated the whole world ::: it has ‘**bound**’ us in knots (i.e. imprisoned in ‘**fear / foreboding / fright**’). But, **Jesus the Christ** says ::: “**come**” (all you, who are “**stuck**”) ::: “**give me the past**” ::: “**I will set you free**”.

Our ‘hand-out’ card captures this ‘**social / spiritual disconnect**’ by asking ::: ‘**where are you**’? The answer given is ::: “happy are those who recognise they are **LOST** and realise they are **FOUND**” ::: “we joyfully discover ‘**where we are**’ when our ‘horizontal mode of life’ (i.e. **social**) and our ‘vertical mode of life’ (i.e. **spiritual**) **CROSS** each other and are reconciled”.

In the light of all this, we have ‘**proclaimed**’ ::: in Booklet / eBook (**The “GLOW” of Happiness / ‘FIT’ for Purpose**) and follow-on ‘**Konect 1-2-1**’ articles ::: **Jesus the Christ** as the perfect representation of an **AFFIRMED** and **AFFIRMING** person. He is - ‘**in word and deed**’ - our “**DISCIPLE**” Master and “**DISCIPLESHIP**” Master.

Now, in all ‘**social and spiritual**’ matters “**DISCIPLINE**” (i.e. obedience / order) is crucial. And, as Pope Francis has said, it is not easy to follow **Jesus** because the path he chooses is ‘**the way of the cross**’ ::: “*If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me*” (Matthew 16:24 / Luke 9:23).

At a basic human level - ‘**Attitude / Behaviour / Character**’ (‘**ABC**’) - we can choose to be ‘negative’ and ‘**Wage Antagonistic Relational Defiance**’ (‘**WARD**’ off) or we can opt to be ‘positive’ and ‘**Die** (to ‘self’) **Recognise Acknowledge Welcome**’ (‘**DRAW**’ out). As ‘**WARD**’ and ‘**DRAW**’ are

'reversals', we, in essence, "*turn the other cheek*". But, take note ::: **The "GIFTS" of JOY : Affirm Bless Celebrate** ::: are '**GIFTED**' only in '**DRAW**' mode (as detailed above). And, to '**DELIVER**' such '**GIFTS**' we have to transcend the '**self**' ('default mode' / 'dis-functionality') 'through / with / in' **Jesus the Christ** — — — as '**partakers**' in his nature, **Christ** enables us to live in him (CCC 521) — — — with faith in his promise: "*I am with you, always*" (Matt. 28:20).

In summary: The 'elephant in the room' ("**gap in the market**") problem - in terms of '**social and spiritual disconnect**' - demands "**DISCIPLES**" and "**DISCIPLESHIP**". The former "*come*" to **Jesus the Christ** and "*catch his holy spirit*" ::: The latter "*go*" from **Jesus the Christ** and "*give his holy spirit*". And, "*life to the full*" ("**market in the gap**") opportunity - in terms of '**social and spiritual reconnect**' - delivers **The "GIFTS" of JOY : Affirmation Blessing Celebration**.

Since we continually "*hunger and thirst*" for '**nourishment**' (on a daily basis) and (equally) for '**meaning / relevance / purpose**' we '**really**' need to '**express**' our '**desires**' — — — in 'human-divine' terms (**The Our Father**) — — — and to '**experience**' our '**goodness**' — — — in 'divine-human' terms (**The "GIFTS" of JOY**) — — — as much as we need 'food and drink'.

The 'heart of the matter' - '**relationality**' and '**responsibility**' - is 'divine-human' / 'human-divine' "**GIFTING**". This '**vision of connectivity**' is set out (as '**motto**') under the '**Konect 1-2-1**' website name ::: '**to give oneself is to receive an other**' ::: '**to receive an other is to give oneself**'.

So, let us 'always remember' / 'never forget' ::: "**JOY**" stands for '**Jesus-the-Christ**' / '**Opens-up**' / '**Your-own-story**'.

He has been sent, by the **Father**, to answer 'your' desperate ('**personal**') '**SOS**' cry for help ::: "*will you not restore again our life that your people may rejoice in you*" (Psalm 85:6). And - the '**good news**' is ::: if '**you**' ::: "*delight in the Lord, he will give you the desires of your heart*" (Psalm 37:4).

Finally: The '**DISCIPLINE**' of 'be-ing' '**DISCIPLE**' and 'be-coming' '**DISCIPLESHIP**' is a 'personal' journey for 'each' and 'everyone', who aspires to be '**another Christ**'. This 'calling' is expressed beautifully in the "**Hosea Song**" ::: 'Come back to me with all your heart. Don't let fear keep us apart. Long have I waited for your coming home to me and living deeply our new life'.

Daniel (www.konect-1-2-1.com) 28/03/2017

2nd "33" GIFT

God invites 'freedom' takers:
"let it be you".

“THE WAY” (‘VIA’)

This is the third segment, of a three part ‘social / spiritual’ **Good News** series, under the (main) ‘title / theme’ ::: **A “NEW” YOU**. The first was entitled ::: **The “GIFTS” of JOY : Affirm Bless Celebrate**. The second was called ::: **“DISCIPLESHIP” (‘for you’ / ‘for everyone’)**.

The overall subject matter is **‘LIFE’** ::: **‘WHERE’** we ponder: ‘what is life if full of care, we have not time to stand and stare (i.e. *“be still and know that I am God”*). As you may know, the human way of things, can, often, seem like “flogging a dead horse”. However, we repeat here, again, for the third time, what **Jesus the Christ** made manifest ::: *“I have come that you may have life and have it to the full”* (John 10:10).

The **‘HOPE’** for **A “NEW” YOU** is fulfilled **‘in the now’** ::: **‘WHEN’** and **‘WHERE’** you **‘Accept / Believe / Consent’** (**‘ABC’**) to the **‘word of God’** ::: *“Behold, I make all things new”* (Revelation 21:5). The promise is, if we: **‘act in faith’ / ‘take God at his word’**, there will be no more **‘misery / pain / tears’** ::: **JOY** will reign in our hearts.

So, how do we translate all this into practice? Believe it or not, the **‘transition / transfiguration / transformation’** to **A “NEW” YOU** is what **Jesus the Christ** is all about. You have to *“cross over to the other side”* ::: ‘from **“old”** (‘dead’) you ::: ‘to **“new”** (‘alive’) you. **Note:** in the **“old”** mode we were ‘dead’ in our ‘trespasses’ (i.e. “trying to do our own thing / without giving **God** a look in”) ::: in the **“new”** way we are ‘alive’ to **God’s** sacrament of the **‘PRESENT MOMENT’**.

The **‘reality’** is ::: **‘old (human) life’** is assumed into **“death with Christ”** and **‘new (divine) life’** is consumed into **“resurrection with Christ”**. How can this happen? The

mystery is ‘revealed’ in the **Incarnation** ::: **Jesus the Christ** (‘one person in two natures’ / ‘divine and human’) came and made manifest the **‘union of two natures in one person’** ::: ‘through / with / in’ **“THE WAY” (‘VIA’)** he lived **‘LIFE’**.

Note: ‘miracles of all miracles’ ::: everything is, now, different, after we (‘human beings’) have been ‘assumed / consumed’ into **Christ** (‘divine being’). We are no longer left struggling on our ‘own’ ::: we have been ‘joined’ to the **“activity”** of the **God-Man**.

Our ‘title / theme’ ::: **“THE WAY” (‘VIA’)** ::: was the ‘road well travelled’ by the first followers of **Jesus the Christ**. The essence of **“THE WAY” (‘VIA’)** for them was **‘Value Identity Affirmation’**. They were, each and all, **‘family of God’ / ‘brothers and sisters in Christ’**. They ‘affirmed’ the **‘divine-human’** goodness of each person - in terms of **‘value’** and **‘identity’** - as **‘another Christ’**. Hence, **JOY** was made manifest in **‘Attitude / Behaviour / Character’ (‘ABC’)** ::: *“see how they love one another”*.

As you may have noticed ::: we live in a world of ‘consternation’ where three “cons” are rife ::: ‘con-facts’ / ‘con-flicts’ / ‘con-fusion’. These are the **‘signs of the times’**. In our ‘dire need / weakness / incapacity’ **WHERE** are we to turn? As always, there is only one answer ::: **Jesus the Christ** ::: He is **The Way, The Truth and The Life**. What this means (in practice) is living **‘LIFE’** in real time ::: since, it’s only in the **‘PRESENT MOMENT’** that **God** and the soul can meet and bless each other and **‘PLAY / PRAY’ (Perfect Love Answers Yes’ / ‘Perfect Relationship Answers Yes’)**.

Ok, you say: I’m **“stuck”** / unable to **“move”** ::: how can you **“solve”** my problem? Now, here’s the ‘bad news’ ::: no one can solve your problem, unless, you are ‘really’ prepared to **‘open’** the **‘troubled area of your life’**, which you, possibly

(without being conscious of same) have kept '**closed**'. The 'good news' on offer is ::: "**God accepts you as(s) you are**". Now - pay attention - there's an (**s**) 'catch' in there - - - "yes" God accepts every person, no matter what their situation - - - since, we all inherited an extra (**s**) in our 'baggage' (i.e. our fallen human nature) and this extra (**s**) stands for '**sin**' / '**separation**' / '**stubbornness**'. '**Be**' like the thief at the crucifixion, who asked **Jesus** ::: "*re-member-me*" (i.e. make me a "member" again) ::: and this is the message **Jesus the Christ** came to deliver ::: that it is actually in '**who we are**' that he wants to '**act**', for the glory of God and the good of souls.

In review: We opened this trilogy of articles with the observation ::: there is a massive '**social and spiritual disconnect**' in '**LIFE**'. This '**real gap**' in people's lives is the '**real opportunity**' for the "**DISCIPLINE**" of being a "**DISCIPLE**" and manifesting "**DISCIPLESHIP**". This '**gap**' could be 'expressed / experienced / explained' in terms of ::: '**Gift Affirmation Presence**' ('**GAP**') ::: everything in creation is '**Gift**' ::: the valid 'recognition, acknowledgement and welcome' for creation is '**Affirmation**' ::: and, the miracle of creation is '**Presence**'. All this '**PLAY**' (on creation) should lead us to '**PRAY**' (for creation): "**Glory And Praise** to our God : in You I trust".

Finally: Jesus the Christ is the 'one and only' person who has brought meaning to the world. In all '**LIFE**' situations ::: '**WHERE**' Man no longer "*walked with God*" ::: '**WHERE**' Man no longer "was in tune with God" ::: **Jesus the Christ** restored our '**sync**' (i.e. 'synchronization' / time based togetherness) with **God**. In the light of the '**Incarnation / Trinity**' ::: '**everything in Christ**' is, now, '**able to partake**', again, in the eternal '**real time presence**' of God. This is '**NEW LIFE**' and A "**NEW**" **YOU**, too.

Nota Bene ('note well') ::: The 'roots' and the 'fruits' of A "**NEW**" **U** can be 'recognised' and 'realised' from the simple and humble 'acceptance / admission / agreement' that ::: '**we are all sinners**' ::: "**GOD ACCEPTS ME**" (as(s) I am).

Prayer: "**Lord, Jesus Christ**, come - in your **glory** - in your **truth** - in your **love** - into "**my life**", this day, I pray". repeat / repeat / repeat (morning / noon / night).

Daniel (www.konect-1-2-1.com) 30/03/2017

3rd ""33"" GIFT

"God in His action makes Himself present"
God (**Father**) / in His action (**Son**) / makes
Himself present (**Holy Spirit**)

“Tuning into God” / “Getting into Sync.”

Living “life to the full” has all to do with ‘being in the moment’. Everything we need is ‘right here’ / ‘right now’. The only thing that keeps us from being ‘fully in the moment’ is ‘our problem thinking’, which pulls us away in all directions and we end up ‘confused and stressed’.

There is nothing in the future or in the past, that can offer us more than the ‘precious moment’ we are in (‘every instant’). We have searched ‘outside’ ourselves to find ‘more time’ / ‘more satisfaction’, and, it’s nowhere to be found. The reality is ::: it’s ‘within’ us (all along). If, you find this explanation, too ‘child-like’, don’t tell anyone, until you have tried it yourself. Children live naturally in the moment.

Note: We need to understand that ‘time’ has ‘human’ and ‘divine’ dimensions. There is clock time (chronology) that we engage in, ‘minute by minute’ / ‘hour by hour’ / ‘day by day’.

There is, also, God’s time (‘kairos’), which represents the ‘opportunity’ of the ‘present moment’ to ‘give’ Glory & Praise: for it is only in the ‘present moment’ that God and the soul can meet and bless each other and **‘PLAY’ / ‘PRAY’** (**‘Perfect Love Answers Yes’ / ‘Perfect Relationality Answers Yes’**).

“Self” ‘examination’ / ‘elimination’

- Whoever demands ‘much’ will receive ‘little’
- Whoever demands ‘little’ will receive ‘much’, but,
- Whoever demands ‘nothing’ will receive ‘everything’.

‘Konec 1-2-1’ Bible ‘connections’

Philippians 1:21 *“For me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain”.*

Death is a great loss to a ‘worldly’ person (for he loses all his hopes and possessions); but, for a ‘true believer’ it is gain (for it ends all his weaknesses and misery). St. Paul’s dilemma was not between ‘living on earth’ and ‘living in heaven’; but, between ‘serving Christ in this world’ and ‘enjoying him in the next’.

St. Paul’s life demonstrates the reality of **‘selfless love’**, when he placed the needs of others above himself.

Romans 12:1 *“My brothers and sisters, I implore you by God’s mercy to offer your very selves to him : a living sacrifice, dedicated and fit for his acceptance, the worship offered by mind and heart”.*

St. Paul refers to the fact that **Jesus the Christ** came into the world to bring us back home to the **Father**. He **‘GIFTED’** his life for our sakes, so that we might, also, **‘GIFT’** our life (by way of sacrifice) in return.

This is a powerful appeal. We ‘receive’ from the Lord – every minute of every day - the fruits of all creation. So, let us ‘give’ in return ::: **‘all we are’** ::: **‘all we have’** ::: **‘all we can do’**.