

THE SCROLL EMPOWERED MINISTRY

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**Serving Boldly, Led by the Spirit,
Transforming Lives for Christ**

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Dedicated to the Mission of Christ Church Noida

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THE SCROLL

EMPOWERED

MINISTRY

Presbyter-in-Charge

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ABOUT THE SCROLL

We are proud to present a new edition of The Scroll, which stands as a distinguished intellectual and theological embodiment of our congregation's collective wisdom. Over nearly thirteen years, The Scroll has evolved from its humble beginnings as a simple newsletter into a highly sought-after publication among discerning believers. It has transcended its initial mandate to become an esteemed platform for the convergence of minds, fostering profound and wide-ranging discourse on matters of significance.

We trust that you will find the thought-provoking and powerful articles featured in this July 2025 edition both enriching and inspirational



EMPOWERING THE CHURCH FOR EMPOWERED MISSION

by Rev Sandeep David, **Presbyter-in-charge**

Introduction

The Church stands as a beacon of hope, called to reflect the love of Christ to the world. Fulfilling this divine purpose requires intentional preparation and active engagement. This article outlines how congregations can enhance their mission focus by leveraging biblical principles and practical strategies to equip, mobilise, and inspire every member.

Understanding Mission in the Church

Mission is at the core of the Church's identity. From the earliest biblical accounts to Jesus' Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20), believers are called to be witnesses and channels of God's blessings. Engaging in mission necessitates comprehensive preparation, including spiritual formation, practical skill development, responsible stewardship, and strategic planning, all while relying on the Holy Spirit's guidance and the diverse gifts within the congregation.

Biblical Foundations for Empowered Mission

1. Empowerment by the Holy Spirit

Acts 1:8 emphasises that believers receive power from the Holy Spirit to be witnesses. The Church must cultivate dependence on the Spirit's guidance, transcending reliance on human effort.

2. The Calling of Every Believer

Mission is the responsibility of all believers, not just a select few. Paul's instruction in Ephesians 4 emphasises the importance of equipping every member for ministry, affirming that everyone has a vital role in God's mission.

Spiritual Formation: The Heart of Mission Preparation

1. Cultivating a Missional Identity

Churches need to foster a culture where every member sees themselves as "sent" on mission, shifting from passive participation to active engagement through teaching and modelling this identity.

2. Discipleship and Maturity

Intentional investment in spiritual formation through small groups and mentoring is essential. Mature faith equips believers to engage confidently with the world.



EMPOWERING THE CHURCH FOR EMPOWERED MISSION

by Rev Sandeep David

3. Prayer as Foundation

A vibrant prayer life is crucial for mission effectiveness. Churches should encourage both corporate and personal prayer to prepare and propel their engagement.

4. Worship as Motivation

Integrating mission testimonials and prayers in worship services reinforces the centrality of mission in the congregation's life.

Equipping the Church: Training and Mobilisation

1. Teaching on Mission

Regular, biblically grounded teaching ignites passion for mission and addresses practical matters such as cultural understanding and evangelism.

2. Practical Skills Development

Equipping believers with essential skills—such as communication, conflict resolution, and leadership—through workshops enables effective service in diverse contexts.

3. Identifying Spiritual Gifts

Providing tools for individuals to discover their unique gifts fosters ownership and innovation, ensuring each member contributes meaningfully to the mission.

Pathways for Engagement

Mission-oriented churches establish clear pathways for involvement, including local projects, global partnerships, and advocacy efforts, while ensuring consistent communication and follow-up to support their initiatives.

Leadership Development: Raising Missional Leaders

1. The Need for Missional Leaders

Visionary, humble leaders are vital. Churches should actively identify and nurture emerging leaders with formation and encouragement.

2. Biblical Leadership Models

Training leaders in servant and apostolic models prepares them to lead effectively in a changing world, guided by humility and wisdom.

3. Mentorship and Succession

Healthy leadership succession ensures continuity in mission engagement and alignment. Current leaders must mentor the next generation to maintain momentum.

Conclusion

Empowering the Church for mission is a shared responsibility that requires the active participation of every member. Through spiritual formation, practical training, and robust leadership development, congregations can fulfil their calling as beacons of hope in a world longing for transformation. By embracing their identity as a missional community, churches can engage boldly in God's mission locally and globally, driving impactful change within their communities and beyond.

EMPOWERED MINISTRY IN THE CHURCH: A CALL TO SPIRIT-LED SERVICE

In today's dynamic and often fragmented world, the Church is called more than ever to be a source of encouragement, renewal, and growth. At the heart of this mission is empowered ministry—ministry that is not simply functional or programmatic, but Spirit-led, Christ-centered, and deeply rooted in biblical truth. Empowered ministry shows the strength and passion of the early Church and is key for believers to live out the purpose God has given them in today's hurting world.

Empowered ministry in church is serving in the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit. In Acts 1:8, Jesus told His disciples, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses..." This promise was not limited to the early Church—it continues to be the foundation of Christian ministry today.

Empowerment in ministry comes from several sources. First and foremost, it is rooted in the anointing of the Holy Spirit—true effectiveness in ministry begins with being filled and led by Him. It also relies on biblical authority, with Scripture serving as the ultimate guide for faith and practice. In addition, God empowers every believer with spiritual gifts, each uniquely designed to strengthen and build up the Church, as given in 1 Corinthians 12. Finally, empowered ministry follows the example of Jesus, who led not through position or power, but through humility and service—a model of servant leadership described in Mark 10:45.

Empowered ministry is not meant to be contained in a few individuals. Instead, it equips others to serve. Ephesians 4:11-12 reminds us that leaders are given to the Church "to equip the saints for the work of ministry."

Empowering others means mentoring, discipling, and creating space for emerging leaders to grow and lead.

This multiplication mindset transforms passive congregations into active participants in God's mission. It encourages young people, women, elders, and those often overlooked to find their voice and place in God's work.

Empowered ministry requires the Church to let go of control, comfort, and sometimes even tradition. It challenges leaders to trust God more than systems and to embrace diversity in gifting and expression.

But the opportunities are vast. An empowered Church becomes a living testimony of God's Kingdom on earth—vibrant, courageous, and compassionate.

Empowered ministry is the natural outworking of a Spirit-filled life in community. When believers allow the Holy Spirit to guide, shape, and energize their service, the Church becomes a dynamic force for good, healing, and transformation in the world.

Let us rise to the call: not just to do ministry, but to be ministers empowered by the Spirit, walking in step with Jesus, and bringing glory to God through every word and deed.



Editor-in-Chief

An empowered Church becomes a living testimony of God's Kingdom on earth

EDITORIAL: THE SCROLL – CHRONICLING FAITH, FOSTERING MINISTRY.

Since its inception in 2013 during the Silver Jubilee celebrations of Christ Church Noida, The Scroll has not merely chronicled the journey of the church – it has become its living testimony. Over the past twelve years, this thematic periodical has emerged as a beating heart of our congregation, with an average of three carefully-curated editions each year. In these pages, voices old and new, seasoned and fresh, come together in vibrant, honest exploration of Christian ministry and the complexities of living out one's faith.

What makes The Scroll unique is not just its choice of topics, but its deliberate investment in intentional ministry. Each article is a window into the lived realities of faith; each testimony, a lesson in discipleship. Freedom of expression is not merely tolerated, but celebrated. Contributors are encouraged to wrestle with Scripture, to question and to affirm, to share victories and vulnerabilities, all under the gentle gaze of an editorial team that values authenticity above all.

A glance through the archives is a journey through countless expressions of conviction, doubt, growth, and joy. Here, we see the transformation of theories into actions, and doctrines into daily life. The rich diversity of perspectives within The Scroll is proof that Christian ministry is not confined to pulpits or programmes—it takes root in living rooms, workplaces, classrooms, and communities.

The beauty of The Scroll lies in its commitment to reflecting not only collective faith, but personal journeys. By offering space for honest reflection and profound engagement, it has fashioned itself into a catalyst for ministry.

Members are inspired and challenged to move from passive church attendance to active participation in God's work. The stories, reflections, and lessons shared within these pages are seeds sown in fertile ground—often yielding a harvest only God can measure.

As The Scroll moves forward, its mission remains clear: to promote a practical, vibrant Christianity that flows seamlessly from Scripture into everyday life. In an age clamouring for authentic voices and intentional action, *The Scroll* stands as both chronicler and catalyst, fostering a culture where faith is not simply professed, but practiced.

Let each edition be a clarion call—to write, to share, to minister, and to live out our faith with purpose and passion. Long may The Scroll continue, not just as a periodical, but as a movement of intentional ministry within the growing and dynamic body of Christ Church Noida.



Founding Editor

The beauty of The Scroll lies in its commitment to reflecting not only collective faith, but personal journeys

Empowered Ministry in the Church

By Brig Rajiv Williams

Photograph by Alex John

One early morning while taking a walk down memory lane in Sector 29 NOIDA, as I passed the imposing steeple of Christ Church NOIDA (CCN), which dwarfed the surroundings with an amazing aura and radiance, made me reflect on how our Church, the body of Christ, has been such a blessing to our family and to many others. I reminisced the Church activities from the time when NOIDA Authority allotted land for the construction of a Church nearly 35 years ago and realised how impactful the journey has been thus far. Col Lawrence Massey, our founder Pastor was given the task of establishing a Church at NOIDA and with his visionary zeal took on the challenge step by step. Through appeals for contributory donations a small prayer hall, which housed approximately 50 people was constructed and soon thereafter funds, donations poured in for the construction of the main Church building and later the parsonage, the parish hall etc.

The neighbourhood saw the building coming up and inquisitively many came to see the church and even attended the worship services and later testified on how they felt empowered and blessed. It is upon such reflections that I felt a sense of fulfilment in Church's commitment toward 'Empowering Ministry of the Church'.

After reaching home, while discussing my experience with my wife, Vineeta, I received a telephone call from a lady who introduced herself as Rebecca, a reporter for an inter-faith magazine and said "I want to write a story on the concept of 'Community empowerment'. Since I was associated with 'Corporate Social Responsibility', my obvious follow up thought was that she wanted some inputs for a story on the social sector. However, when she went on to say - "The reason for my call is to interview you on the topic "Empowered Ministry of the Church", surprised me. I sure was taken aback as it was only a while ago that I was reflecting upon this topic and immediately agreed to her request.

Rebecca:

With your experience in the social sector, what are your thoughts on the concept of 'Empowered Ministry in the church'?

Rajiv:

Empowerment is a process that encourages individuals to develop their potential fostering, a sense of ownership and responsibility and in this context - in the ministry of the Church. When we empower others we invest in their growth and development, enabling them to flourish and make a lasting impact on the church community. There are many examples given in the Bible which allude to this concept and I would like to particularly quote the Bible verse from Acts 1: 8, which promises believers will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon them. The verse emphasises that God empowers the Church to fulfil its mission through the Holy Spirit and in the instant reflection aligns with 'Church empowerment ministry'. There is a Central authoritative figure, which is inspirational and drives us to share our talents and strength with the Church community and that Central power is our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Growth – both physical and spiritual are important facets in the Church ministry, which are well practiced and visible in our Church. The story of the Church has been transformational since early days with worship services being conducted in the 13 family homes in 1988 to conducting worship services for 50 people in the prayer hall to accommodating nearly 500 congregants in our Church today. Hence the growth story in these past 38 years is but an example of varied opportunities of community empowerment, a subset of Church Ministry.

Empowered Ministry in the Church

By Brig Rajiv Williams

Photograph by Alex John

Rebecca:

What do you mean by community empowerment in the Church as a Ministry?

Rajiv:

Space is a requirement to build and transform community and help in their overall growth and development. A community is a conglomeration of people and at CCN, efforts are made toward giving opportunities to people to grow spiritually and intellectually as effective members of a society. What does that transcend into – It transcends into opportunities around education, skill training, entrepreneurship development, health care and so on. especially for the marginalised sections of society. At CCN after a base line survey, which was carried out at a village near the Church and after assessing needs of the community, we established Learning Centres in and around the Church premise, with preference for admission given to children of rag pickers, house maids and others with limited resources. This by itself is indicative of the Ministry that the Church carries out in an inclusive and responsible way.

In addition to education, CCN as part of its community engagement and entrepreneurship development started another initiative on skill training, where young women from the marginalised sections of society were enrolled and a tailoring centre opened. At the Centre, the women learn basic tailoring skills and later encouraged to become entrepreneurs. As part of the Church's contribution toward circular economy and creating employment opportunities at the Centre, walk-in orders are given by ladies from the Church congregation and the Learning centre places orders for children uniforms etc. In addition, the Church places orders on the tailoring centre for utility bags and other items, which are put up for sale at the Church fete and other open markets. I position this as a great 'Outreach program' and as another activity under the mission of Church empowerment Ministry.

Rebecca:

Besides community empowerment, what examples do you have with regard to individual social responsibility being carried out by the Church, which could be included under 'Church Empowerment Ministry'?

Rajiv:

Appreciate your question with regard to Individual Social Responsibility (ISR). The Pastor with the help of Church elders and others keeps a watchful eye on individual talents and see how individual can be further encouraged to hone on their skills for the benefit of the larger Church community. One of the major reasons for such veneer is lack of opportunity and even knowingly or unknowingly individuals do not come forward to display their talents. Hence as part of the Ministry of Empowerment, I have seen how young talented children, once given an opportunity have excelled giving solo recitals, conducting workshops, giving talks in the Church and other platforms and so on. I also observed that children and young professionals once shy and inert, with encouragement have bloomed into confident young leaders.

I would like to share the change I saw in Mr. Jeewan, the son of one of our Church staff member. He was once a shy and a quiet boy but with timely encouragement by the Pastor and others, he has excelled both in studies and other extracurricular activities. Jeewan has done well in his studies having been admitted to an English medium school and took on challenging roles in youth mentorship. Today he plays the keyboard and drums and is an active participant at various individual and collective youth activities. He is confident and resilient with great organising acumen. Such joys are immeasurable and are visible to the Church as also to his parents, who quietly in their own way feel empowered. This is what I would say is true empowerment and one can give many such examples as part of our Church Empowerment Ministry.



Empowered Ministry in the Church

By Brig Rajiv Williams

Photograph by Alex John

Rebecca:

My final question to you Brig Williams is what about the Spiritual part of the Church Empowerment Ministry? Can you give one such example, which will help in my understanding?

Rajiv:

Rebecca this question is an outcome driven question. Outcome of the Church Empowerment Ministry'. Here I will briefly share an example of yet another boy Pushpender, again son of our staff member, who has been groomed by the Pastor toward Church ministry. Coming from a family once not in faith of believers yet seeing the Church activities, joined the Church youth group and started participating in various programs. He was spotted by the Pastor and is now being groomed toward theological education. His commitment is truly wonderful and helps the Pastor in running various programs in the Church. He even assists the Pastor in conducting the Sunday Worship service and is encouraged to give sermons. Pushpender's speaking skills have improved significantly as he has become confident and seeks additional roles. An absolute example of how the Church Empowerment Ministry has been impactful in grooming the youth toward ministerial work.

I would have been happy in talking more on the topic but need to wind up due to time constraints. I thank you for the surprised interview and hope it will help you and others in understanding the concept of "Empowered Ministry of the Church".

Rebecca:

Thank you Brig Rajiv Williams for your time and I am sure many Churches and institutions of other faiths will benefit from this dialogue.

EMPOWERED MINISTRY IN THE CHURCH

By Vineeta Rebecca Williams



Believers are encouraged to actively participate in ministry, trusting in divine strength and the Great Commission to impact the world

Are we living in end times?
Is the world going to collapse?
Will there be a world war?

Such questions keep crossing my mind as we go through a mighty turbulent time in the whole world. In the midst of all assumptions and trepidations, the Holy Bible emerges as the source of great reassurance, comfort and peace.

As I started my research on the given topic, I did go through Google search. With the inputs from AI, a lot of insights were thrown open. I could easily connect many points biblically and have tried to express my views on a very pertinent topic. Acts 9:31 states - And so it was that the church throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria had a time of peace.

Through the help of the Holy Spirit it was strengthened and grew in numbers, as it lived in reverence for the Lord. A very powerful verse down the ages, for all believers and servants of The Lord Jesus. Empowered Ministry refers to the belief that all believers are empowered/equipped by the Holy Spirit; for ministry and service. Empowerment means to have authority or power which is given to someone to do something. (Oxford Dictionary)

It is for us to acknowledge that the Holy Spirit bestows each believer/follower of Jesus Christ with gifts and abilities to fulfil God's purposes. Besides the formal leadership positions every Christian has a role to play in the Church and the wider community. As Jesus Christ ascended to the heavens he gave us the greatest commandment. Matthew 28:18-20 profoundly empowers each believer to make disciples of people everywhere.



The task is tough but down the ages believers have been proclaiming the Word of God and have been making disciples in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The spread of Christianity through out the world says it all.

We the believers have this Divine empowerment to fulfil the Lord's command according to the God-given potential, we all possess. We don't have to wait for a formal invitation or a formal nomination or an election to be in the Empowered Ministry in the Church. John 15:5 says that "we can do nothing without him". So according to His Divine Will, whatever we do or wherever we are placed in life let us be always willing to be part of this Ministry.

EMPOWERED MINISTRY IN THE CHURCH

By Vineeta Rebecca Williams



Focusing on the theme, we can subdivide the Empowerment Ministry as follows:

- Universal priesthood: 1 Peter 2:9
- Holy Spirit empowerment: Isaiah 40:29-31 and Acts 1:8
- Gifts of the Spirit: Ephesians 4:11
- Focus on service: Colossians 3:23

Examples of Empowered Ministry

- Serving in local church, Sunday School, VBS, Bible study, Hospitality, Music etc
- Evangelism and Outreach. Sharing of Gospel beyond the Church walls.
- Community involvement: Serving in local charities, addressing social needs etc.
- Supporting Missions: Financial support to mission work in theology, education, health etc.

CCN has been an active, vivacious & buoyant congregation from all walks of life. With exemplary leadership and faithfulness of the members, we have seen our church grow. Yet much more needs to be accomplished. Key points which can further improve our outlook and our involvement may be described as such:

1. Discipleship: The more we grow in faith and understanding of God's Will the more empowered we will be to carry out His mission.
2. Leadership development: The process of spiritual growth and service has to be deeply inculcated so that succession planning is smooth and the mantle of responsibility is accepted wholeheartedly.
3. Accountability: None should ever forget that we are all accountable to God for whatever we do.

With the help of the Holy Spirit all tasks should be done judiciously in the fear of the Lord.

Empowered Ministry in the church is about recognising, the potential of every believer to actively participate in God's work, guided by the Holy Spirit and fuelled by a desire to serve and with reverence to Our Lord Jesus Christ

EMPOWERED FOR MISSION: REDISCOVERING THE CHURCH'S PURPOSE

By Anand Peter

Believers are empowered for mission through the Holy Spirit, enabling them to effectively witness and fulfill their divine calling in every era

In every era of Christian history, the phrase “Empowered for Mission” has reverberated as both a call and a challenge. As followers of Jesus Christ the nature and purpose of the Church, this concept is more relevant than ever. Though the world’s landscapes, cultures, and languages have transformed across centuries, the essential question remains: what does it mean for believers to be empowered for mission? Exploring this question is not simply an intellectual exercise—it is a call to the heart of Christian identity, discipleship, and destiny

Theological Foundations: Spirit and Sending

To understand the true meaning of empowerment in a Christian context, one must begin with the source. The New Testament introduces the Holy Spirit as the enabler of effective witness. After His resurrection, Jesus delivers a crucial instruction to His disciples: “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses... to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8).

Empowerment is not merely motivational; it is impartation, coming directly from the indwelling Spirit of God. This Spirit possesses both dynamism and, equipping believers not only with extraordinary capabilities but also with a clear sense of mission.

This empowerment echoes the Trinitarian sending of Christ Himself; just as the Father sent the Son, so the Son sends His followers (John 20:21).



EMPOWERED FOR MISSION: REDISCOVERING THE CHURCH'S PURPOSE

By Anand Peter

Here, mission is not an afterthought or an optional endeavor—it is woven into the divine plan. The Church's vocational DNA is inherently missional, oriented towards the expansion of God's kingdom. Thus, every believer is invited into a larger narrative: the work of God in transforming lives, societies, and creation itself. Empowerment Beyond the Individual

Too often, "empowerment" is understood isolated, individualistic terms—conjuring images of extraordinary personalities accomplishing heroic acts. Yet, Biblical empowerment is fundamentally communal. The early Church in Acts lived out the reality of a Spirit-empowered community.

They shared, broke bread together, advocated for justice, and preached with boldness—all as a living to the resurrection. Acts 4:31 describes how "they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness. The collective nature of this empowerment underscores that mission is not a solo journey but a shared pilgrimage.

Moreover, Paul's metaphor of the Body of Christ stresses this communal dimension. No single individual possesses the fullness of the Spirit's gifts. Instead, the diversity of talents, backgrounds, and callings reflects the multifaceted wisdom of God. This vision subverts any model of mission is reliant upon personality cults or celebrity leadership. Instead, it celebrates the quiet, persistentfulness of many working together, their ordinary deeds magnified by divine grace.

Reimagining Mission in a Fractured World

Contemporary society is marked by deep fragmentation—culturally, politically, and spiritually. This context, being "empowered for mission" takes on renewed urgency and complexity. It is not simply about propagating institutional religion or increasing membership numbers. The heart of Christian mission is best understood as loving service: embodying the kingdom values of justice, mercy, reconciliation and hope.

Being empowered for mission entails entering into the world's pain and brokenness, rather than retreating from it. The incarnational pattern of Christ challenges the Church to move from comfort to compassion, from self-preservation to sacrificial love.

EMPOWERED FOR MISSION: REDISCOVERING THE CHURCH'S PURPOSE

By Anand Peter

In practical terms, this means advocating for the, standing with the oppressed, practicing hospitality to strangers, and confronting systems of injustice. The viability of Christian proclamation is measured not only by the eloquence of its speech, but by the credibility of its love.

Imagination, Innovation, and Interdependence

Empowerment for mission also requires a sanctified imagination. The Spirit's stirs vision, creativity, and adaptability, enabling Christians to perceive new realities and respond with ingenuity. The early Church faced daunting obstacles: persecution, cross-cultural barriers, and internal dissent. Yet, the Spirit of God inspired solutions—raising up leaders, birthing new communities, and crossing ethnic divides.

In today's context, the same Spirit invites the Church to embrace innovation: to reimagine how the gospel can be articulated, embodied, lived out in a digital, pluralistic, and global age.

Furthermore, empowerment entails interdependence—not just within the Church, but with the broader world. Mission is not about imposing beliefs; it is about listening, learning, and partnering for the common good. Patrick's mission to Ireland, Carey's endeavors in India, and countless unsung saints throughout history demonstrate that mission is at its heart relational. It is a journey with, merely a campaign to.

Conclusion: Empowered to Embody Good

To be empowered for mission is to embrace both a gift and a responsibility.

It is to recognize that Christian identity is inseparable from Christian purpose. The same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead animates believers to join the mission of God: proclaiming the good news, serving world's needs, and anticipating the promised renewal of all things.

This is not a task for the faint-hearted or the complacent, but for those willing to be shaped by the Spirit, stretched in love, sent in hope.

In a time of uncertainty, confusion, and systemic need the Church must resist the temptation to retreat into irrelevance or self-preservation. Instead, let us reclaim vibrant, world-changing force of Spirit-empowered mission. May we, like those first followers of Jesus, bold witnesses—living embodiments of a love that is 14 stronger than fear, more creative than despair, and wider than the world itself.



Empowered Ministry In The Church

By Nilima Das

Photograph by CCN Church Choir

When the right convictions are in place, opportunities and support naturally align, as demonstrated by Payal's journey from church choir to international opera singer and voice trainer through divine timing and community connection.

There's something about the church that once you understand how it works and your convictions are in the right place; ready helpers place themselves naturally in ways front of you. My ministry was always the choir and seeking God through song. This brings me to an anecdote about a singer, Payal Bedi. I had been singing first soprano in The Free Church, Parliament Street, Delhi, since childhood. Now as an adult, a new member came along, a not so young Punjabi - she was 35 she told me later. She had been walking past the church and was attracted to the singing and decided to come and sit in the back pew and listen. After our practise when we were milling around having tea, she introduced herself to the director, Royall Maclaren and declared she would like to join the choir.

He immediately agreed and said it was a Monday evening commitment at 6.30.

Soon we became friends. Payal told me she had just left her job in computers and was looking for something else. I noticed she had a fantastic voice with a wide range and she had the added distinction of years of North Indian classical training behind her. After a while she asked me if I knew any voice trainer who could help her sing arias. I promptly gave her the number of Situ Singh Buehler, the sole opera trainer in Delhi. Payal was seated next to the tenors and made friends with Manu John, a south Indian singer. Knowing she was on the other side of thirty, I suggested she had a good bio-data and could always pick up a job when she needed it. It was now time to look for a life partner. This seems to have been the answer she was looking for. What was my surprise when soon she was riding pillion on Manu's mobile and got lifts home and then lifts to Bible study. Soon there was an engagement and wedding.

Needless to say, Situ took her in immediately as I knew she would and Payal dedicated herself to opera. In no time at all she was singing soprano solos from Handel and Bach. She was even awarded a three-month scholarship to Milan to study vocal techniques.

Manu proved very competent in giving technical support and did her recordings. He worked at computers for The British Council and had no grudges at supporting her training. "It's an investment for the future", he said. True enough, after a couple of years, Payal John became voice trainer at The Bangalore School of Music with Manu beside her as a tech whiz. Perhaps this was one of those cases of serendipity - to be at the right place at the right time. I couldn't help thinking of our Lord's words, 'where two or three are gathered in my name, there will I be also'. Payal's father-in-law, an ENT specialist blessed the marriage and encouraged her singing.



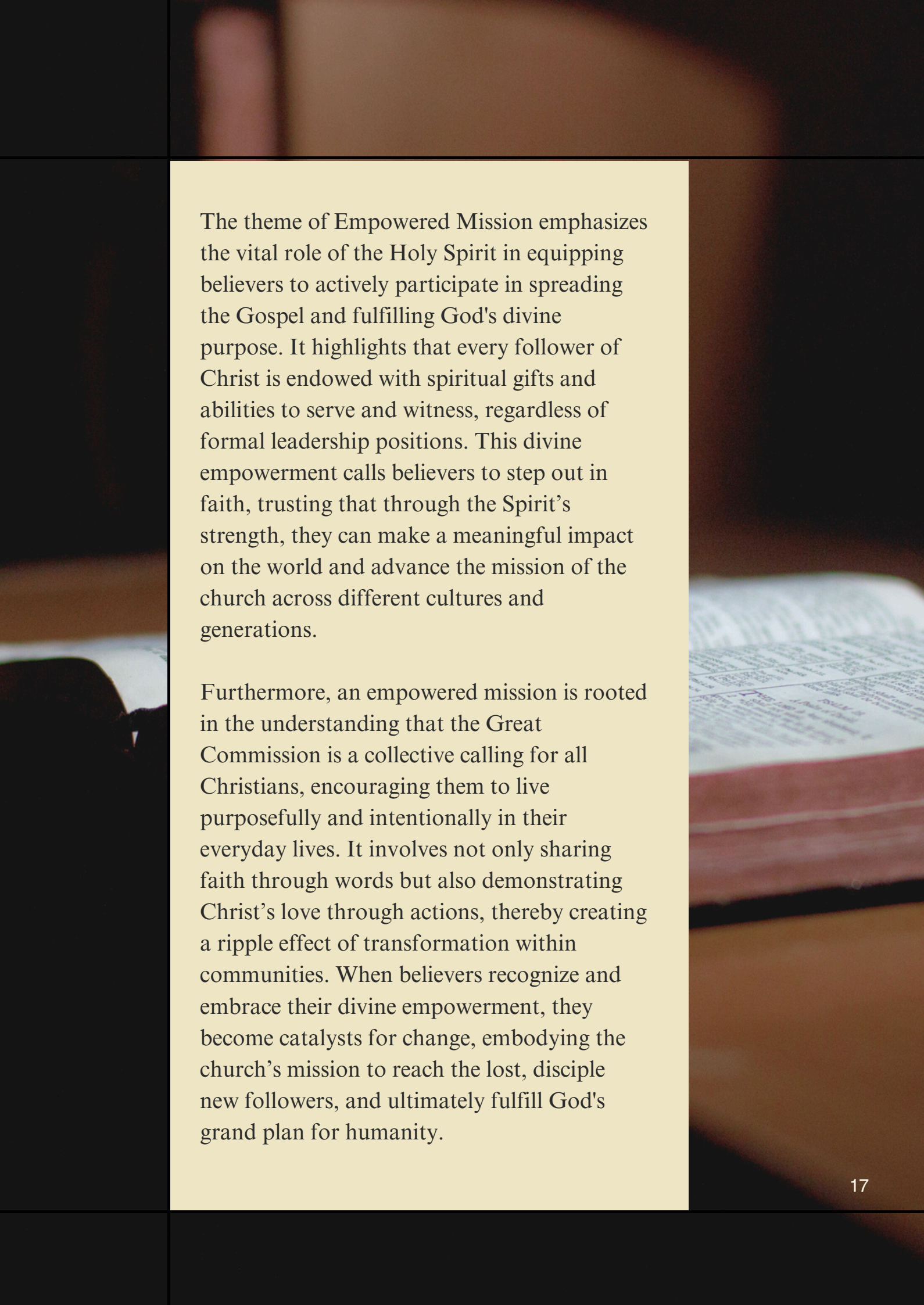
Empowered Ministry In The Church

By Nilima Das

Photograph by CCN Church Choir

Many years later when I was already in my seventies and lost much of my youthful chutzpah, I found myself in the CCN choir Noida and Rabindran Sunder Singh, the director welcomed me in to sing with youngsters of varying ages. I had never sung with children before, but Rabindran had the skills to blend us all together. So here I am still empowered.



The background of the page features a close-up, slightly blurred image of an open Bible with a red cover. A pair of dark-rimmed glasses is resting on the left page of the Bible. The text is overlaid on a light yellow rectangular area in the center of the page.

The theme of Empowered Mission emphasizes the vital role of the Holy Spirit in equipping believers to actively participate in spreading the Gospel and fulfilling God's divine purpose. It highlights that every follower of Christ is endowed with spiritual gifts and abilities to serve and witness, regardless of formal leadership positions. This divine empowerment calls believers to step out in faith, trusting that through the Spirit's strength, they can make a meaningful impact on the world and advance the mission of the church across different cultures and generations.

Furthermore, an empowered mission is rooted in the understanding that the Great Commission is a collective calling for all Christians, encouraging them to live purposefully and intentionally in their everyday lives. It involves not only sharing faith through words but also demonstrating Christ's love through actions, thereby creating a ripple effect of transformation within communities. When believers recognize and embrace their divine empowerment, they become catalysts for change, embodying the church's mission to reach the lost, disciple new followers, and ultimately fulfill God's grand plan for humanity.



THE CHURCH WE LOVE

The Scroll has enduringly exemplified the esteemed intellectual platform of Christ Church Noida, serving as a beacon of scholarly discourse and enlightenment within the community. Its longevity and continued relevance are a testament to its unwavering commitment to fostering thoughtful reflection, fostering dialogue, and nurturing the pursuit of knowledge. Over the years, it has become a respected repository for ideas, facilitating a space where ideas are not only shared but also critically examined, thereby elevating the collective understanding of its readership.



It is particularly noteworthy that numerous authors, who have contributed articles to this publication with dedication and integrity, consistently return to the Scroll to present their latest insights and foster new propagations of thought. This recurring engagement underscores the publication's stature as a trusted and influential intellectual arena, inspiring continued contributions from passionate writers. The enduring allegiance of these authors underscores the publication's vital role in shaping and guiding informed discourse within Christ Church Noida, marking it as an integral pillar of the community's academic and spiritual growth.