Fourteen Lives, One Witness

This book is for those who often wonder—and sometimes lament—that young people today have no worthy role models. Here are not one or two, but **fourteen inspiring examples**.

These fourteen individuals come from diverse backgrounds: villages and cities, farmers and professionals, highly educated men and women, young people from many walks of life. Eleven of them are laypeople. Among them are young men and women, an archbishop, a priest, and a religious sister.

"Fourteen Lives, One Witness" is the title of the book. It has been published by Kairos Media, the organization behind *Kairos Malayalam*, *Kairos Global*, and *Kairos Buds* for children in Hindi and English, reaching young readers in Kochi, Delhi, England, and the Middle East.

The book spans more than 240 pages and is priced at ₹300.

Though these fourteen individuals differ greatly in name, personality, and background, they are united by certain common traits. They all possessed an uncompromising love for Jesus and a passionate desire to share His message of salvation with others in whatever way they could. They are all very loving people. They are all Jesus Youth members.

The book is written in a style that reads almost like a story or a personal memoir. Yet it is not a book to rush through. While the language is simple, the insights and challenges emerging from these lives are profound. Each life is presented through ten chapters, inviting readers to pause, reflect, and allow the lessons to sink deep into their hearts. If approached in this way, these stories have the power to transform lives.

Before introducing these fourteen remarkable witnesses, a few things deserve mention.

In October, we had the privilege of presenting the English edition of *Fourteen Lives, One Witness* to **Pope Leo XIV** in Rome. We consider this a profound act of divine providence connected with this book.

To help readers reflect more deeply, a companion reflection guide has been prepared for every chapter. Seven-minute dramatic scripts based on each chapter have been created for use in faith formation programs, catechism classes and prayer groups. All these resources can be downloaded free of charge from the website. Modern technology has been employed creatively to make these inspiring lives accessible to everyone.

These fourteen witnesses are not only for young people; they are a source of inspiration and hope for adults as well. This is a book that belongs in every home, especially those with young adults, teenagers, and children. And it is a book to be read not once, but again and again.

The Fourteen Witnesses

1. Ajna George

After completing her Master's degree in Commerce and passing the UGC eligibility examination for college teaching, Ajna began her teaching career. On the very first day she started work, she was diagnosed with a deadly form of sarcoma cancer. Without complaint or self-pity, she embraced her suffering with extraordinary courage. Until her final breath, the Holy Eucharist remained her source of strength.

2. Archbishop Abraham Viruthakulangara

"I am a Jesus Youth," he proudly declares. Through his gentle presence and simple words, he has touched and transformed the lives of hundreds of young people.

3. Roy, Rajani, Reena, Shiji, and Bindu

After participating in a parish outreach program in Rajapuram, Idukki, these young missionaries were returning to Kozhikode when they were caught in the tragic Pookkippadam bus fire in Malappuram in 11 March 2001. Along with forty-one others, they lost their lives. Yet even as flames engulfed the bus, praise of God remained on their lips.

4. Jerin Vakkayil

An engineer by profession, Jerin's sudden death while playing badminton revealed something few people had fully understood during his lifetime: how beautifully he had used his technical skills for the work of God's Kingdom. Many later came to know him as a "Digital Evangelist."

5. Sister Thresiamma

Her life demonstrates how a gentle, caring presence can profoundly influence and transform the lives of young people.

6. Suresh George

This young man from the agricultural region of Iritty in Kannur possessed a remarkable understanding of Sacred Scripture. His life raises an inspiring question: How did he come to know and live God's Word so deeply?

7. Sherin Jose

In the heart of Ernakulam, on the campus of Maharaja's College, God found a hockey player. Through him, many altars—and many lives—were illuminated with the light of Christ.

8. Sapna Tresi

A nurse at AIIMS Delhi, Swapna discovered cancer after becoming pregnant with her eighth child. To protect the life growing within her, she postponed treatment despite the risks. On Christmas Day 2017, while a documentary about her life was being broadcast on Shalom TV, she entered eternal life.

9. Joicy Jaison

The mother of five children, Joicy faced cancer and its sufferings with remarkable courage, hope, and faith. Through her witness, she became a source of encouragement and hope for countless others.

10. Fr. Cherian Nereveettil

Fr. Cherian became involved with Jesus Youth during his seminary years and eventually served as the movement's International Chaplain. Yet neither his positions nor even his extraordinary decision to donate a kidney to a young woman he had never met fully explains why he earned such a special place in the hearts of young people.

A Final Word of Warning

Read these fourteen lives with caution.

They may change your life.

"Fourteen Lives, One Witness" is not merely a collection of biographies. It is a testimony that holiness is possible today, that ordinary people can live extraordinary lives, and that authentic Christian witness still has the power to transform the world