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VAARTHAI

IBT Founder (Late) Rev. Prof. S. Panneer Selvam

WORD OF TRUTH -
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PREPARE YE THE WAY OF THE LORD

Prophet Isaiah foretold in the 7th century BC *"A voice of one calling: In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."* (Isaiah 40: 3-5). Prophet Isaiah lived in the 7th century BC in Israel. Israel did not have great roads during that time. Most of the roads during the time were dirty ones. They were beaten down tracks and mostly dusty. People mostly travelled on foot. Some people travelled on horse back or donkey's back. Chariots were used only by kings.

Now we travel by cars, trains, buses and airplanes. We travel from place to place in a short time. In addition, we have telephone and mobile phone to communicate with our family, friends and others constantly as to

where we are. For a moment, let us travel back in time to prophet Isaiah's time and think about their travel. Consider walking speed of men say about 3 - 5 miles/hour. If we travel on foot for the entire day we would have covered just 10 - 20 miles a day. Human beings would have got tired based on their health condition walking for more than 3 - 5 hours a day. If we have to cross mountains, streams, rivers, forests, bushes filled with thorns etc, it would make the journey even worse. Just imagine how difficult it would have been to travel in those days.

Prophet Isaiah wrote this chapter in those times. He talks about difficulty in travelling. Particularly in crossing mountains, rough ground and, rugged plains. A person travelling in those days in Israel would have felt why not the king or the ruler lay a road which would be straight for people to travel. That is what prophet Isaiah envisions: that a day would come when there would be

straight path for people to travel. They would not have to climb mountains and valleys, instead would walk straight. They would not have to walk through rough ground but through smooth straight road. Why not the rulers clear all the rough ground and create a smooth straight road for people to travel.

Also during that time, Israeli people were taken to Babylon as exiles. Most of the Jewish people lived in Babylon and worked for either the Babylonian king or Persian king. They had to go through a lot of hardship during those times. They were physically and mentally drained. A lot of people lost their hope and faith in God. They were consumed by worries, difficulty, grief and sorrow.

Prophet Isaiah likens their physical journey on the ancient roads to human journey during their life time. Human beings during their life time have joy, sorrow, grief, financial difficulty, worry etc. This clouds our thinking also, is it not? We are constantly thinking about problems we have and how to overcome them. At the same time, there are another set of people who have so much pleasure in these life that they don't have time to think about anything else. If our heart is pre-occupied with such worries or pleasures, we won't have time to think about others and also about our Creator, the Almighty God and His mission. Prophet Isaiah addresses such people in the vision that he saw. He saw a vision in which he says "A voice is calling in the desert and saying in the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord". It is a very beautiful analogy that prophet Isaiah has portrayed in this verse.

After almost 700 years, in the 1st century AD, John the Baptist called the people of Israel to repent and live a new life. He was the messenger before our Messiah Christ the Lord. So Luke says in his gospel book that in John the Baptist's ministry the words of prophet Isaiah came true. Luke says John the Baptist was the one who was calling in the desert to the people and asking them to prepare the way for the Lord. During the time of John the Baptist and Jesus, the Romans had laid paved roads. They laid roads connecting major cities for trade and for their troops to travel. However, smaller towns were still connected by old dusty paths that cover mountains, valleys, rough ground etc. So Isaiah's prophecy and analogy is still valid during Jesus' time.

Friends, in this advent season as we prepare to celebrate Christmas, let us ponder over these words which prophet Isaiah spoke almost 2700 years ago. What does it mean to "prepare the way for the Lord"? We will look at each verse in this passage and study it in detail as to what it means for us today.

"Make straight paths for Him":

When the President or the Prime Minister visit a city other than the capital city, the city gets spruced up. Roads are cleaned; trash and other dirt are removed. Big arches are erected on the main roads through which the visiting dignitary's motorcade will pass by. Massive billboards and posters will spring up to welcome the visiting dignitary. Local collector and mayor will supervise the preparations for the visit, days in advance. Every detail of the motorcade route will be thoroughly checked for security and neatness.

The State Chief Minister and other ministers will go and welcome the visiting leader. Other leaders such as mayor and collector also will welcome him. Sometimes little children will line up the streets near the school to welcome the visiting leader. I have also as a young boy, stood on the street to watch Prime Minister Morarji Desai's motorcade pass by. The Head Master of St. Mary's Higher Secondary School also stood on the road side to greet the visiting Prime Minister. That is how we welcome leaders who come to our city and town. It is an important occasion for us. When we go home, we talk about it for a couple of days and remember it for a life time.

If we give such importance to worldly leaders, how much importance should we give to Jesus Christ? We celebrate His birth on Christmas day. But in advent we also prepare ourselves to receive Him, we prepare ourselves to celebrate His birth, life and ministry.

In this verse, prophet Isaiah tells us that we need to clear the clutter in our hearts. When people visit our house, we clear the clutter on the tables and clean the house to make it look presentable. God does not care how our house looks like when He visits us, but he looks at our heart and our deeds. We need to clear the clutter in our hearts and minds to receive the Messiah, who is Christ the Lord. Our mind is pre-occupied with so many things. Sometimes we worry about our job and health. We worry about children's studies and their future. Sometimes we go astray and commit sin. In such cases we are called to change our behaviour. We should humbly ask for forgiveness for our sins and

repent. If we repent for our sins, our heart becomes light and we feel happy and joyous again. That joy which comes from heaven gives peace which passes all understanding. It clears the rough road and makes it straight for us to receive the Messiah, Christ the Lord, in our hearts.

When we clear all distractions that pre-occupy us, we free our heart. When we fight to remove all temptations, when we work hard to get rid of bad habits, we make a straight path for Christ to enter into our hearts. He is the Potter and we are clay. We let him melt and mould us in to a beautiful shape to be used for holy purposes. That is what Christ called us for, to be a witness in this world for his mission and ministry, to help the lost, forgotten and under privileged people in this world.

"Every valley shall be filled" - In the ancient times travelling through the valleys would have been very difficult, particularly climbing down and climbing back up. Just imagine how it would have been. A person's heart would start beating fast, breathing would get heavy. The person will get tired and legs and body would ache. They would feel thirsty and would get hungry. To quench their thirst they would have to carry much water. Also they would have to carry food so that they would have energy to proceed.

Some people go down the Grand Canyon for fun and climb back up the same day. While going down it takes them only 2-3 hours. But while climbing back up it takes about 7 - 10 hours depending upon the health of the people. People carry water and food for the trek journey to the bottom of

Grand Canyon. While climbing back up, they say that carrying water, food and other things makes it very hard. Some people who have blood pressure and heart trouble will have great difficulty in climbing. Sometimes phone does not work in the mountains and valleys. If it is so difficult in the modern world, just imagine how much difficult it would have been in those days.

Similarly worries, disappointments, sorrow and grief are like that too. When we are disappointed or filled with sorrow or worried about something, our hearts would get heavy. We would breathe heavy, it is very similar to going through valleys, just as what prophet Isaiah said long time ago. In addition, a person travelling through a valley would have to carry all the food for travel. It is very similar to carrying a heavy burden. We might have faced failure in education, job or life that can force us into this worrying spin. Also losing a family member will cause so much sorrow and grief. During such difficult times, we may not like to do anything that would interest us. Life would become so unpleasant. We will see everything with a negative heart.

Having a lot of financial debt would force us to worry about the present and future. In India, during the past decade a lot of farmers committed suicide. They had so much debt and they were depending on the crops to bear fruit. By selling the harvested crop they were thinking of paying down the debt. But unfortunately there was not enough rain and the crops failed. So they did not have proper harvest. In turn they had no product to sell in the markets. Facing a lot of debt and

having to feed the family, they were extremely burdened. Unable to face the difficult situation and grief, they committed suicide. What a pity, it was really a pathetic situation in many States in India. They did not get much help. During such time in our lives, we cannot ask someone else to carry our burden. Only we have to carry. Others can mentor and talk to us during that struggle.

A person going through depression also would not like to do things that he or she would normally like to do. They will not like to eat the food that they like. They will not like to listen to music or play in the playground. Such a person going through terrible depression will have difficulty in sleeping. A few hours of sleep is all he or she would get during such times. Daily life would become painful. During such times also such people would feel like walking through mountains and valleys, carrying a heavy burden.

Israelites faced a difficult situation in Babylon when they were taken there exiles. That is when prophet Isaiah gives this message of hope. When faced with such situations, we don't like to do anything. Some of us would get angry with God. Why did God allow us such a situation? Our heart will not be prepared to welcome the Messiah. *For such a time prophet Isaiah gives this message of comfort, Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins (Isaiah 40 : 1-2).*

The Lord is giving the Israeli people the message of comfort and peace in their time of distress. As Psalmist said in Psalm 103 vs 8 - 13, *The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;*

This message of compassion, forgiveness, comfort and peace gives us strength and courage in Christ our Lord. We His followers, pray to Christ and the Almighty God for help. Prayer helps us to prepare our hearts to receive the Almighty King. Through prayer we get help from the Holy Spirit to overcome such situations. Thus we fill the valley and prepare the way for the Lord to enter our hearts.

Every mountain and hill make low:

When we climb a mountain or hill we look down on the valley or plain. That signifies that we look down on people when we are doing great or when we think that others are inferior to us. Then we are puffed up with so much pride that we think that others are dust when compared to our status or others are not so talented when compared to us.

Proverbs 6 : 17 says that God does not like a proud look. The Almighty God created

the whole universe. We live in this world for utmost 70 - 90 years, God willing. God generously gives to us out of His free will, to enjoy our life here on earth. Every good gift is from our heavenly Father. But when we perform well, we attribute our success to our talents, abilities and greatness. Then we are puffed up with pride. When we are puffed up with pride, our mind is so clouded that we are not able to appreciate the goodness of the people around us. We are not able to appreciate the talents of other people.

Some of the Israelites before they were taken to Babylon on exile never thought about their Creator. They thought that they were living a decent life and did not want to think about their Creator. Their wealth and talents filled their minds and clouded their thinking. Since their mind was pre-occupied with wealth and their talents, their hearts were not prepared to receive the Lord.

If an administrator is very arrogant and does not care about the people who work under him, nobody would approach him for help. Nobody would approach him to even have a conversation. But if an administrator is kind hearted and gracious, people who work under him would approach him to tell him everything that is happening in the institution. Even if there is nothing to convey, people would just go to greet the kind administrator. Arrogance and pride will stop people from coming towards us. Arrogance and pride will stop a person to reach our Almighty God. If we are arrogant or filled with pride, we will not be able to prepare a way for the Lord. On the other hand, if we remove that trait and behave humbly in our earthly life, people would like us and our

hearts will be better prepared to receive the Messiah, Christ the Lord.

Crooked roads shall become straight:

If the road was so crooked it would have been very difficult for the people to travel during Isaiah's times. The southern part of Israel was barren and desolate. When the sun was beating down during summer time, it was very difficult for travelers. Particularly when walking through the wilderness, it would have been very difficult to travel through a crooked path. People would have longed for a short straight path to the destination.

Prophet Isaiah equates walking through the crooked road to a dishonest and not so truthful person. When we are dishonest and not so truthful, we will not be prepared to receive the Lord in our hearts. We will be so filled with guilt and our hearts will not be prepared to receive the Lord.

Prophet Micah talked often about injustice and dishonesty among the Israelites. Some of the verses which prophet Micah spoke are listed here. Prophet Micah felt that there were no righteous people, *there is no justice in the land* (Mic 7:2). *The judges accept bribes* (Mic 7:3), *the rulers oppress the poor* (Mic 3:1-3), *the prophets lead the people astray* (Mic 3:5), and *the priests are easily bought* (Mic 3:11).

Even in Roman empire the basic law was based on truth, honesty, justice and fairness. Why do we want to be truthful, honest, just and fair? The answer is we don't want to hurt another human being. We don't want to take away what belongs to others. If the whole society follows the law, then there is

peace and harmony in the society. That is the mark of a civilized and mature society.

God tells through prophet Micah, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you, But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God? (Mic 6:8)

When we are truthful, honest, just and fair, we are able to prepare the way for the Lord. *Just as what prophet Amos said But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!* Amos 5 : 24. Justice, fairness, honesty and truth will create a grand highway for the Messiah to travel into our hearts.

Rough roads smooth:

Prophet Isaiah said that while travelling in those days, rough roads would be difficult to tread on. Of course while walking through rough roads with either bare feet or with some wooden sandals that people used during those days would be very difficult. Isaiah saw a vision in which people's travel would become easier by clearing up the rough road.

In life also Isaiah is telling us to clear up the roughness in our attitude, behaviour and in our dealings with other people. What are rough behaviours? Let us look at them carefully. They can be our moody behaviour, anger, rage and revenge. Sometimes we say that we don't have the right mood to do work. Any work for that matter, whether it is work at our work place, whether it is work at home or helping others needs a proper mood. Sometime we say for every work we don't have mood to do that. Moods should not

control us, we have to control the moods. When we do all the work joyfully, we bring glory to God in heaven.

It is normal human tendency to get angry at times. Even though ideally it is not good to get angry, emotions do overtake us and we show anger at our family, friends, colleagues and strangers. Sometimes we regret our own behaviour; sometimes we feel that the targeted people deserve to see our anger. Let us see how our Lord and Saviour Jesus taught us about revenge. He said in Matthew 5 : 43 - 48, *"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect".*

We replace anger, revenge and moody behaviour with love, joy, peace and reconciliation. St Paul talked about love in 1 Corinthians 13 : 4 - 8, *"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails".*

When the England cricket team visited India in the 1930s, they went to see Mahatma

Gandhi. Even though India was fighting against Great Britain to attain independence, Mahatma Gandhi showed love and affection to the British cricket team. The visiting captain showed him the list of his team members. There were 16 members in that team. Mahatma Gandhi took that paper and added his name as the 17th member of the team (17. M.K Gandhi). Such was his magnanimity and love for his adversaries. It is a powerful remainder that we can use love to counter anger and revenge. And we can reconcile with the people whom we offended. Reconciliation brings much joy to our hearts. It is a beautiful thing in God's creation. Similarly, we replace moody behaviour with joy. We work joyfully and rejoice every moment that we have to bring glory to God in heaven. When we replace our rough behaviour with love, joy, peace and reconciliation, we smoothen the rough road to prepare a glorious way for the Lord to come into our hearts.

The glory of the Lord will be revealed:

When all people see our behaviour, we bear witness for our Messiah, Christ the Lord. We take the message of God's salvation and behave as little Christs in our earthly life. Our witness is like stars in the night sky, like salt on the earth. We are new people used by our heavenly King as instruments of peace and reconciliation. We make it easy for the Lord to travel to our hearts this Christmas season.

Closing thoughts:

During Christmas time, we make elaborate preparations to set our house to celebrate the festival of the birth of Christ with

family and friends. We decorate the Christmas tree, instal decorative lights and stars outside our house. We make tasty dishes and sweets for family and friends. We give presents to family and friends. There is a lot of anticipation among the family members and friends for the coming festival. In this study we looked at how we prepare our hearts to receive the Lord.

We looked at prophet Isaiah's message of preparing the way for the Lord. We studied each verse in the early part of Isaiah chapter 40. We clear all distractions and temptations and allow our Master to melt and mould us just like the potter does with the clay to create the clay pot. Thus we make a straight path for the Lord to enter our hearts. During the time worries, disappointments, sorrow and grief cloud our thinking, God's message of forgiveness, comfort and peace strengthen us and fill the valleys and make

an easy path for the Lord to travel into our hearts. When we replace arrogance and pride and replace them with humility, kindness and magnanimity, we level the mountains and allow our risen Christ to enter into our hearts. When we replace dishonesty and, not so truthful behaviour with honesty, truth, justice and fairness we make the crooked paths straight for the Lord to travel into our hearts. When we replace anger, and revenge with love, joy, peace and reconciliation, we make the rough roads smooth for the Lord to travel into our hearts. When people see our behaviour and we witness to the risen Christ as little Christs in this world, God's glory is revealed. May the joy, peace, hope and love of Christ the Messiah be with you this Christmas season and in the coming years.

- Dr. JOHN ARUL GUNARAJ

NEWS LETTER

Greetings to all the readers of Saththiya Vaarthai in the sweet name of Jesus Christ.

As a mark of Christmas festival the whole world is getting fantastically ready to celebrate the birth of Christ with stars of varied colours in front of the houses and shops and with glittering lights.

According to Matthew 1:21 the primary purpose of Jesus Christ's birth is "He will save His people from their sins." The Father gave His only begotten son Jesus Christ as sacrifice for the salvation of every human being. The

blood He shed on the cross earned the salvation of people. This salvation is invaluable. A person who is not saved by the blood of Jesus has no right at all to celebrate Christmas festival. But we have totally left out the very purpose of Christmas and are making the festival a big affair. Many of us are unmindful of salvation. In this regard saint Paul warns us saying in Hebrews 2:3 " how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard Him. Those who have been saved should strive to retain

this salvation till the Second Coming of Jesus. In this regard our Lord Jesus Christ has said emphatically in Matt 24:13 and Mark 13:13. My brothers and sisters who are reading this message, know for certain that "if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you do not fall!" so that you can inherit eternal life.

Those of us who are celebrating grandly the First Coming of Jesus Christ as a festival, are awaiting His Second Coming. But there are crores of people living in India who do not know anything about even the First Coming of Jesus Christ. There are many people who would ask who Jesus is. It is a painful fact that though almost 2016 years have passed since the advent of Jesus, and though Thomas, one of the 12 disciples of Jesus, became a martyr in Indian soil, there are many in our country who do not know who Jesus is.

When the angels proclaimed the message of the birth of Jesus to the shepherds, these shepherds did not just become glad and stop with that, but they proclaimed the Good News to other people. (Luke 2:17). The poor shepherds left their sheep and proclaimed the birth of Jesus to others. But do we, who are well educated and much more civilized, share the Good News with those who do not know anything about Jesus Christ?

As per the census of the 20th century, within a period of 100 years since communist regime was started, 50 % of the people in the world came to know communism. We are to ponder over this. Many of us have not shared the gospel even with our neighbours. How sad is it! It is very much painful to know that there are only

below 10% Christians even after about 2000 years since the Good News about Jesus Christ was brought to India by St Thomas. The ministry of 'Indian Bible Translators' was started with the prime purpose that other Indians should also know Jesus Christ and following Him, should be saved and travel in the path of eternal life. It is with this intention that this ministry is being carried out effectively, which was begun by our (Late) Rev Prof S. Panneer Selvam. So remember to pray for this ministry with burden in your prayers.

On 30.10.2016 Bro E. Ravi gave God's message and explained IBT ministries in the CSI church in Devaram, Theni district. On 13.11.2016 Bro Vasu gave God's message in the TELC "Easu Anben Aalayarn in Saththur and Bro E.Ravi explained about IBT ministries. On 20.11.2016 Bro Varamaniraj gave God's message in the CSI church in Vilampatti and Bro E.Ravi explained about IBT ministries. We thank the pastors and church committee members who gave us permission to do IBT ministries in their churches. Last 23.10.16 Bro D.Nallasamy and Bro Samuel Gnanadas went to Odisha State for inspecting the building construction at Pappanpalli Children's Home and also to find solutions to the hurdles in constructing church buildings in Attigan and Nanganal mission fields. The detailed report is published separately.

Between 24.10.2016 and 5.11.2016 translators in Bhojpuri language, namely Bro Sudhirkumar and Bro Jaywantkumar came to IBT head office from Uttar Pradesh and did the checking of the book of Proverb in OT and also did key-in work. Rev Nag also came from BSI,

Bangalore, and reviewed the checking work. Bro Vijayaraj, translator in Kunjapanai Irula language, came to IBT Centre and stayed here for doing key-in work of the book of Galatians in NT.

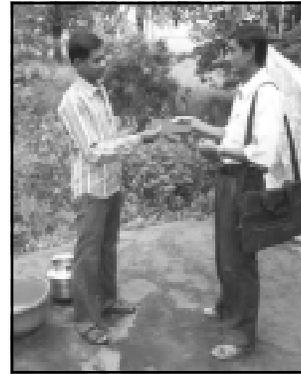
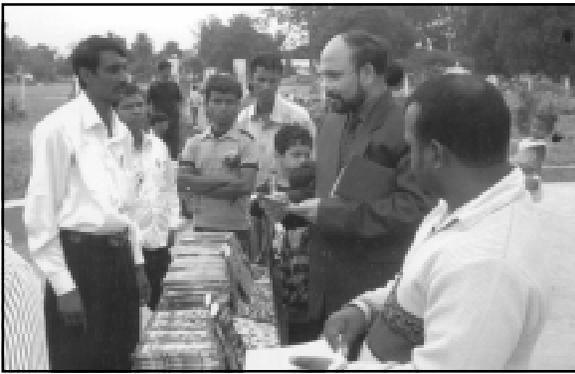
On 5.11.2016 IBT President Bro S.Timothy distributed certificates to 11 ladies who completed 6 months tailoring training, to 8 ladies who completed computer training and to one lady who completed knitting training at IBT Training Centre in Ooty Rohini. Along with him Bro R. John William, Bro John Sekar, Bro.Lazer

Stephen and Bro. Vanaraj sister Navamani Sekar and sister Kamala Thompson also went to Ooty Rohini.

Please pray that the translation and related works should be done speedily so that the people who speak the particular languages may be given the Bible in their mother tongues. I pray that Christmas and the following New Year should be a blessing to you and your families.

Your brother
- S. Timothy

GOD'S WORD FOR THE PEOPLE CALLED MIRGAN



Distribution of Mirgan language New Testament by Mirgan Translator Bro. Ayub Suna.

The people called Mirgan are also called Panaga. The only language these people speak is Mirgan. The population of these people is nearly 1 lakh. These people live in the districts Nabarangpur and Korapat in Odisha State. In Nabarangpur district these people live in Kosagumudu, Thabukam, Umarkot and Jarigam. In Korapat district these people live in the town Korapat also.

These Mirgan people are firm that they should speak only Mirgan language, and no other language. Therefore, in all the planned functions these people speak only Mirgan language. On such occasions even the State administrators speak only Mirgan language, thus giving prominence to only this language.

The forefathers of these people were in Chattisgarh State. Many years ago they migrated to Odisha State.

These people like mostly rice and vegetables. While they take food, the words 'dog' and 'hen' should not be used. If these words are used even by chance, the people would stop eating and get out. These people like only vegetarian food.

Every year when the crop wheat is ripe to be harvested, they harvest a small portion, take it to their god in the temple and celebrate this as a festival. This festival is called 'Nugai'. On this occasion all the members of the family sit together and the children greet their parents, who would kiss their children. Thereafter, they harvest wheat and cook the newly harvested wheat. Their god called 'Kovir' in the town Thamagetha in Chattisgarh State is special for them. Every year in the month of February they go to this temple as families and worship that god. It is difficult for them to accept Jesus Christ as their personal God and Saviour.

The chief occupation of Mirkan people is agriculture. They till the soil and cultivate rice, sugarcane and vegetables. They are also weavers.

During marriages the bridegroom has to give Rs 10,000 or Rs 15,000 to the father of the bride. During the marriage ceremony oil will be smeared on the bride and bridegroom. Water

will be brought from their religious guru, and it will be sprinkled on the couple along with music.

Whenever a member of this community dies, the body would be buried. The grave pit should face north - south. The bereaved family will not cook food for 10 days. Their relatives should cook food for them. On the tenth day the family members of the dead person will have their hair on their heads shaved, and then only they will take their food on that day.

Most of these people are educated and they send their children to schools so that their children will have good future.

With the strong desire that these Mirgan people also should know Jesus Christ and live for Christ, I joined the Bible translation ministry undertaken by Indian Bible Translators in Coimbatore in the year 1998. There I learnt English, translation principles and lessons on missionary ministry. Thereafter, I started my ministry for the first time in my life. So far the gospel books of Matthew, Mark and Luke in New Testament have been translated into Mirgan language and printed, and they have been distributed to the people speaking in this language. Please pray that the people who received these books should read them daily and grow in the Lord, and also for the translation and printing of the entire Bible in Mirgan language.

COMPUTER REQUIREMENT

We are urgently requiring 2 systems for the Bible Translation in Bhojpuri and Chhattisgarhi languages. The cost of the system comes to Rs. 70,000/- approx. We request the sponsor to contribute towards this cause.

AN INSPECTON TOUR TO MISSION FIELDS IN ODISHA STATE

Our loving greetings in the name of Christ to IBT partners and readers of Saththiya Vaarthai.

On 23.10.2016 Bro Samuel Gnanadas and I left Coimbatore for the dual purpose of visiting IBT mission fields in Nabarangpur and Goraput districts in Odisha State and to find a solution to the long standing problem in acquiring land for IBT in Attigan and Nanganaal mission fields. On 26.10.2016 we reached Mali Attigan mission field and had discussion with church believers, land owners and law counsellors. Accordingly, former believer Thiru Chandrasekar Malik came forward to give his 10 cents land freely. Now the preliminary formalities are to be undertaken, followed by the registration of the land, and subsequently building construction has to be started. Bro Sampath, the IBT missionary in this church, has taken the responsibility to undertake all the above works.

The construction of a church building in Nangalnal needs active cooperation of the people of this place. So we met the concerned people and some good decisions were taken. On receipt of the approval of building construction by the district collector, the construction of church building will be started. That evening, worship service of Nangalnar believers was conducted. On 27.10.2016 we reached Santhoshpur mission field and inspected the works done by Dheshia language translator and missionary Bro Christudan who is in charge of Santhoshpur and Nangalnal

churches. The Old Testament portions which have been already translated in Dheshia language, are being keyed-in in the computer. Then we went to Ponduguda mission field and met Missionary Bro Ruban Antharu. On that day baptism was given to 7 new believers and they became members of the church. Please pray for them.

On 28.10.2016 morning we reached Pappanpalli Children's Home. The 3 missionaries staying there are taking care of 102 children. As a type of contagious disease is spread in this area, children below 15 years of age are being affected. Therefore, according to the government order 20 children below 15 years of age staying in this Home have been sent to their houses. The construction of a toilet is about to be completed. We left this place in the evening and by night we reached Similiguda mission field.

On 29.10.2016 we reached Ambuguda and Keranaguda mission fields and there we conducted worship service and prayed for the believers. We also distributed New Testament in Boda Porja language. The people here are economically very backward. Then we visited Thamanjodi and Littiguda mission fields and inspected the work done by Kadapa language translator Bro Sunilkumar and Raju Hayal. The translation of the New Testament in Kadapa language has been completed. Efforts are being taken to release it in 2018. Thereafter we visited Puriagudi and Lengiguda mission fields

and conducted worship service there and prayed for the believers. These people are very backward economically and are living without any support. IBT is doing God's ministry among such people. The worship service and God's message given in Kalagudu, which is amidst dense forest, have encouraged these people.

That evening we reached Puriagudi mission field where Bro Nayayan Puria is doing translation of the Bible in Kondaporja language. This place is at a distance of 20 km from Siminiguda. Lenjiguda mission field is close to mountainous area. It is amidst dense forest area and it is at a distance of 25 km. We prayed along with 10 believers in a house. This district of Korappat consists of villages surrounded by

dense forest. The people who live in these villages speak Kadapa, Podaporja and Kondaporja languages. The people here are educationally backward and the road condition is poor.

The Lord blessed us during our travel through such places having acute chillness and frost and also having the threat of Maoists, and brought us back to Coimbatore safely. The journey to such mission fields is a difficult one. But gospel should reach the people who have not accepted Jesus Christ and are living in spiritual darkness. They too should join the flock of believers. So let us pray for such people.

- Bro. D. Nallasamy

FIELD NEWS

Translator/Promotional worker :

Thirumathi Elizabeth

Mission field : Gudalur

Language : Paniya

Greetings in the sweet name of Jesus Christ.

By the abundant grace of the Lord I did my ministry with prayer. Last month I visited the following villages for my missionary work and distributed tracts and gospel books in Baniya language: Savundangolli, Cherumulli, Echchamvayal, Narimula, Kollimula, Melampalam, Puththurvayal, Moththavayal, Aththipaana puramana vayal and Nethajinagar. I met the people who had already been given New Testament in Paniya language and

encouraged them to read the book. We also shared the Good News with them. We visited the following places for promotional work and visited the homes of the believers: VOC Nagar in Gudalur, Health camp, Thuppukudipettai, Kasim vayal, Chempala atti, Maikapound, Jainhall, Chevidipettai, Marthoma Nagar, Melgudalur, O.U.H. Road, Nadugudalur and Pandalur Devala. Please pray for our ministries.

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Promotional worker :

Bro T. Ramalingam

Mission field : Ooty (Tamilnadu)

May the name of Jesus Christ be glorified. Last month I visited the following villages and the places around them and did my promotional

work: Ooty, Aravenu, Kottakkambai, Kunjapannai, Salamor, Ketththi, Thorai, Seekola, Ottupattarai, Paalakalla, Kaandal, Orasolai, Aravangadu, Boys Company, Wellington, Mel attadi and Keel attadi. In addition, I supervised the training conducted by IBT at Ooty Rohini and Keel Koththagiri. Those ladies who were trained in this training centre are earning for the livelihood of their families by doing work at their houses and shops. Sridevi, the lady who functioned as tailoring teacher earlier gave this testimony: " It is IBT which made me a tailoring teacher, who was staying at home not knowing anything about the world. I, who did not go anywhere, rented the place which was bought for tailoring training and there I am running a cloth shop. I bought 3 sewing machines and I am giving tailoring training. Not only me, but many ladies who underwent tailoring training are earning by tailoring, and are financially helpful to their families. We all will be ever thankful to IBT for this." You too pray for IBT ministries and for IBT social services.

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Translator : Bro Christudan Namrasil
Mission field : Nenganaal (Odisha State)
Language : Dheshia

Last month I did the key-in work in the computer the translated portions of Joshua chapters 1 to 24 and Judges chapters 1 to 5. In addition, I conducted Sunday worship services, fasting prayer meeting on second Saturday and house prayer meetings in both Nenganaal and

Santhoshpur mission fields. Many believers are participating in these meetings regularly, and have started living according to the deep scriptural truths. They listen to the Bible verses keenly.

I went to many villages around the mission field Nenganaal and shared the Good News with the villagers. In addition, I go to the village called Poojariguda and give education to the children. 16 children who speak Dheshia language attend these classes. The believers Sister Pushpalatha, brothers Thikkaram and Devadas have expressed their wish to take baptism.

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Translator/Missionary : Bro Hanumanth
Mission field : Renibennur
(Karnataka State)
Language : Lambani

By the abundant grace of the Lord, last month I did key-in work in the computer the translated portions of Genesis chapters 27:10 to 31:3. I conduct worship services on Sundays. Nearly 32 - 38 believers participate in these worship services. In addition, I conduct youth meeting, house prayer meetings, fasting prayer meeting and missionary ministry in these nearby places: Bathmaavathipur, Govindpathavani, Kangajlaal, Hallatti and Renibennur. I distributed tracts and gospel books. Three believer sisters Chegappa, Saroja and Rathamma have expressed their wish to take baptism. Please pray for my translation and missionary ministries and for my family.

Missionary : Bro. Sanjaykumar

Mission field : Chattarpur

(Madhya Pradesh)

By the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, last month I did my missionary ministry by sharing the Good News and distributing tracts to the villagers in these villages: Katchiyaan Therisora, Morada Pithyaayaram, Kaindu, Negomaasthi, Hema, Pidid colony and Kauranya. Particularly, the following persons heard the Good News with keen interest: Bro Anil varma, Deepakanuragi, Bharatsingh, Mukeshvarma, Mrs Asha Kaur and Pavul lal Agarvaar. I told them about the miracles performed by Jesus Christ and other incidents when He came to the earth as an incarnation. I conducted Sunday worship services, fasting prayer meeting on second Saturday and house prayer meetings in Chattarpur and Gautham town. 10 believers participated in these meetings. Please pray that through my missionary ministry many people who do not know Jesus should know Him.

Missionary : Bro Mada Lokesh

Mission field : H.D. Kotta (Karnataka State)

Greetings in the sweet name of Jesus Christ.

By the abundant grace of the Lord, I visited many villages and shared the Good News with the villagers. I went to the house of many believers and prayed for them. I continued to conduct Sunday worship services and fasting prayer meeting on second Saturday. I visited the following villages for my missionary ministry: Pera palli, Pegur, Kargodu, Maadapudraa, Mysore Azhagiri kotta and Andur chandi. Some of the villagers listen to the gospel with keen interest.

Last month my father went to be with the Lord. Therefore, now I have to shoulder all the family responsibilities as I happen to be the eldest son. Please pray for our consolation and for the Lord to give me wisdom to perform all my responsibilities properly.

GOLDEN THOUGHTS

- The blood of Christ makes us safe; the word of God makes us sure.
- In God's work we see His hand, in His Word we see his face.
- Give your all to Christ; He gave His all for you.
- Make Sunday your strong day, the rest of your days will not be weak days.
- As water cleanses the body, so the word of God Cleanses the soul.
- Riches are a blessing only to those who share their riches as a blessing to others.

PRAY & PRAISE

1. By the abundant grace of the Lord, the final checking of the book of Proverbs in OT in Bhojpuri language was completed under the supervision of BSI senior translation counsellor Rev. Premraj Nag when the Bhojpuri translators Bro Sudhirkumar and Bro Jaywantkumar came over to IBT Centre, Coimbatore, and stayed here between 24.10.2016 and 05.11.2016.

2. The books entitled 'Bayappadadhirungal', 'Vaanththin Vaasal' and 'Word of Life' (English) written by IBT founder Rev Prof S. Panneer Selvam are being reprinted. Please pray for the speedy printing of these books.

SEASON'S GREETINGS



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