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SATHTHIYA VAARTHAI

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

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JESUS, JOSEPH AND MARY

Christmas has arrived and we are blessed with yet another opportunity of celebrating and commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ in this world. When I was just scanning through the scriptures what to write as Christmas message, the first thing that caught my attention was the genealogy of Jesus Christ - giving the long list of the forefathers of Joseph, the husband of Mary, as found in Matthew's Gospel and the forefathers of Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ as found in Luke's Gospel.

I. Genealogy of Jesus Christ

Of course, every Bible lover would agree that the reading of genealogy will be always a dull and uninspiring experience. We always tend to skip through the genealogy of Jesus Christ. On the otherhand, if someone hands over the list of my own forefathers, starting from my own name tracing back to Adam, I would just grab it and carefully go through the whole list of my forefathers, which I guess must work out to nearly 120 generations,

assuming 50 years of average gap for each generation - a very reasonable assumption. I am sure, that every reader of this article will be interested to know his own genealogy, right up to Adam. I strongly feel that none of us would be able to trace the names of our ancestors, travelling in time backward from our present 21st century to the period of Adam, except probably the Israelites, who are traditionally meticulous in keeping the genealogy record of their ancestors.

But we need not be in complete darkness altogether. Some of you, who had gone through the scriptures closely, would know that the forefathers of Jesus Christ from Noah to Adam are common to all of us. It is a wonderful feeling to know that we share the parentage of Jesus Christ, from Noah to Adam, about ten generations. Among our Great - Great etc. grandfathers, Enoch is the most illustrious one, worthy of our emulation.

I. a. Sons of Noah - Forefathers of Jews and Europeans, Africans and Asians?

After the flood, the Bible tells us that every living thing, both man and cattle and the creeping things and the fowl of the heaven, were destroyed from the earth and Noah remained alive and they that were with him in the Ark (Gen. 7:23). This means all the present generations living on the earth right now are the descendants of the sons of Noah - Shem, Ham and Japheth. I am really curious to know whether I am a descendant of Shem, Ham or Japheth. The Bible tells us that Jesus Christ, and hence the Jews, and probably the Europeans, and hence the American race, were descendants of Shem, the eldest son of Noah. The Africans may be descendants of Ham, and the Asians except the Jews, must have descended from Japheth, the youngest son of Noah. Even today, most of the Asian countries, with a few exceptions of Japan, South Korea and Singapore, are either underdeveloped countries or just developing countries, like India and China. They are still heavily dependent upon the technical collaboration and financial assistance of American and European countries.

Yes! The sons of Japheth, the Asians, are still living in the tents of the descendants of Shem, the Europeans and Americans, fulfilling the words of Noah: *"God shall enlarge Japheth and he shall live in the tents of Shem"* (Gen. 9:27). I used to wonder whether what we saw decades ago in South Africa, was a fulfilment of Noah's words, *"cursed be Canaan, a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren"* (Gen. 9:25). Of course, we oppose tooth and nail every form of slavery being practised in any part of the world.

So, on this Christmas, let us not forget to go through all the names of the forefathers of the parents of Jesus Christ. As a mark of

respect and honour to them, I feel that we must read and spell out their names, at least once in our lives. Without entering into the controversy that is often credited with the genealogy records of Jesus Christ, I would like to just highlight the following points on the Genealogy of Jesus Christ, given by the great Bible Scholar John R. Rice, from the Rice Reference Bible.

I. b. Jesus

Son of Mary - seed of Woman as per God's promise: Son of Joseph as per record.

Matthew's genealogy, traced the line of Christ through King David's son Solomon to Joseph, the husband of Mary (Mt. 1:16). By contrast, Luke, in the 3rd Chapter, began with Joseph but immediately switched over to Joseph's father-in-law that is, to Mary's father, HELI. We can verify this by reading Luke 3:23 and Matthew 1:16. According to Mt 1:16 *"Jacob begot Joseph"* but according to Lk 3:23 *"Joseph was the son - (-in-law) of HELI"*. Here the word son in Lk. 3:23 is given in Italics, which means, the word son was inserted by the translators. So, whereas Matthew traces the genealogy of the husband of the mother of Jesus, Luke traces the genealogy of Mary, the mother of Jesus.

Here we must not fail to note that Matthew gives the genealogy of Joseph, only upto Abraham and there he stops. But Luke, starts from Joseph, the husband of Mary, and then crosses over and switches on to the lineage of the father of Mary, Heli, and traces up to Adam and God, because Jesus is the seed of the Woman, promised to Adam by God in Gen. 3:15.

There is yet another important underlying truth that we have to note. The two genealogies of Joseph and Mary, as recorded

by Matthew and Luke respectively, have a common parentage from Adam upto David, and then it deviates at the two sons of David, Solomon and Nathan. So, from the legal and record point of view, Jesus was the son of Joseph and hence of Solomon (Because Mary, the mother of Jesus, has to give the name of Joseph, as the legal father of Baby Jesus, to the officials taking census at the time of the birth of Jesus, and she cannot tell the officials that the child was born of the Holy Ghost). Actually, Jesus was not the son of Solomon. There is yet another more compelling reason why Jesus could not have descended from Solomon, because Jechoniah was in that line. We read about Jechoniah in Jer. 22:30. *Thus saith the Lord: "write these words for this man", "None of his descendents shall sit on the throne of David".* So if Jechoniah, the forefather of Joseph, happens to be the father of Jesus, then Jesus cannot sit on David's throne as promised in the scripture. So, Jesus came through another son of David, that is Nathan... Heli and finally through Heli's daughter Mary, as the promised seed of the woman.

I. c. Reading of genealogy results in the conversion of a soul

I wonder, how many of us see the importance and the implication of the genealogy of Jesus Christ - preservation of the records concerning the parents of Jesus Christ, from Joseph and Mary, right up to Adam and God. There is no other book in any other religion that gives a complete record of the genealogy of any other person, claiming to be the incarnation of God.

This reminds me of my meeting with Mr. Paul Sudhakar, some years back. I invited him to conduct a three-day's meeting among

the college students in 1967, when I was a post-graduate student at the Guindy Engineering College, Madras. Mr. Sudhakar, before his conversion, was a staunch Hindu, and was an authority on "GITA", one of the most important Hindu Scriptures. During the course of his talk with me, he narrated how by just reading the genealogy of Jesus Christ, he became a follower of Jesus Christ. Hear him as he talks to you.

"It was in the pre-independent period around 1942. I (Mr. Sudhakar then) was living in Madras as a neighbour of Dr. Radhakrishnan, who later became the President of India. As you know, Dr. Radhakrishnan was a great philosopher and an exponent and a guiding light for Hinduism. As a Hindu, I had great reverence and admiration for him, and almost worshipped him as my Guru. One day, I met Dr. Radhakrishnan in his residence and told, nay pleaded with him, that I may be allowed to sit under his feet as his Sishya (disciple), and he be my Guru (Master). But he did not seem to relish my desire to make him as my Guru.

Then looking straight at me, he said, "I am not worthy to be your Guru. If you want a real and worthy Guru to follow," - he paused for a moment, then took a New Testament lying on his table, and said: "you go and read this book and you will find the real Guru." He then handed over the New Testament to me. It was a real shock for me. I disliked the Bible and the Christians. I went home with a sullen face and with bitter disappointment. After coming home, I took the Bible, just because it was given by my Guru, and started reading the Matthew's Gospel.

Immediately, the genealogy accounts of Jesus Christ caught my attention. This is because in our Hindu scriptures and in the mythology, the story of anything or any other hero or incarnation of God will start rather abruptly. But here is a book that gives the names of all the ancestors of Jesus Christ - right up to Adam, the first human being. So a great faith on the authenticity of the Bible surged into my heart, leading me to believe that all the messages and accounts of this book must be true, and then I found Jesus Christ as '*the way, the truth and the life*'. It is very true in my case that the genealogy accounts of Jesus Christ, proved as a pointer and sign-post to show the Lord Jesus Christ to me."

This is how Mr. Sudhakar became as Paul Sudhakar, after just reading the accounts of the genealogy of Jesus Christ. Yes! Who can undermine its power, be it a genealogy or any portion of the scriptures?

For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart (Heb. 4:12).

II. Joseph's heroic and sacrificial role at the time of the First Christmas

The second thought that caught my attention, as I read the scriptural portion regarding the birth of Jesus Christ, was the crucial and heroic role played by Joseph, at the time of the birth of Jesus Christ. Remember, that the Bible mentions about Joseph, only on two important occasions, that is during the birth of Jesus, and then at the time of the Passover feast at Jerusalem, when Jesus was 12 years of age (Lk. 2:41).

Afterwards, the name of Joseph is almost obliterated from the records of the Bible. But the role he played, especially during the time of the birth of Jesus, was most crucial, full of sacrifice and self-control in his own personal life. The Bible gives a graphical picture of his role by the following verses.

"Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

Then Joseph her husband being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily.

But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost".

"Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife.

And know her not till she had brought forth her first born son: and he called his name JESUS" (Mt. 2:18-20, 24 and 25).

From the above record of the scripture, we find that Joseph was a man of honesty and integrity, a worthy match for young Mary. Immediately after his engagement with Mary, Joseph, as any young man of his age, must have made so many plans for his ensuing marriage, and the future plan of his married life. When he was in this state of mind, he received the sad and bad news, probably through some of his relatives, that his would-be wife was pregnant. We must remember that news of this kind can be the worst and

most dishonorable news, any young man of his age can receive. What was his immediate reaction? He did not act furiously with his parents and other relatives, who made the proposal and the alliance. The Bible tells us, that he was not willing to make her a public example, and so, decided to put her away privily. Here the words, '*not willing to make her a public example*', suggest that some of his relatives must have become furious, and would have suggested such a course of action. But Joseph stood stoutly against that proposal, and decided to put her away secretly. This highly dignified behaviour of this fine young man, in such a situation, has a tremendous message for us.

II. a. Don't publicise bad reports about others, whether true or untrue

On this occasion of the Christmas, let us learn this very important lesson from this young man Joseph, the husband of Mary. Whenever we hear some bad news about others, true or false, please don't air it immediately to everyone around. If the glad tidings of the birth of Jesus Christ must get across the nations and oceans, we must stop the bad news about others across the street. Some people, especially ladies, are addicted to this bad habit of spreading bad news about others.

A story is told of a Christian lady, who spread false news about another person. After spreading the bad news, she came to the awful realization, that the news was totally false. She went to the affected person and asked for pardon. Even then, she was feeling guilty, and she wanted to do something to undo the damage caused by her. She went to a Pastor for further counsel. The Pastor, after listening to her whole story, devised a clever

plan to teach her a valuable lesson, for her uncontrolled tongue.

The Pastor asked the lady to go over to the market and buy a chicken. She obeyed. Then he asked her to kill the chicken and throw away the feathers on her way from the market to her house. She did that also. Then he again asked her to go back to the market and collect all the feathers she had thrown into the wind. She came back and said "Oh, all the feathers were blown away by the wind. I could not find even one". Then the Pastor, driving home the lesson like a nail, told her: "That was exactly what had happened to all the rumours and false reports that you had spread about the other person. They are all gone to the wind forever, never to be retrieved again. Now you can do nothing about the damage you have already caused to the person. You have to give an account of your words only on the day of judgement. At least hereafter, stop practising this evil habit", the Pastor told that lady.

Let us remember the words of Jesus Christ : "*Every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgement. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.*" (Mt. 12:36, 37).

III. Looking at the other side of the problem

Another lesson we can learn from the life of Joseph, the husband of Mary, as recorded in the scripture in Matthew (1:18-25) is that, we must always learn to see the other side of the picture in anything we hear, the brighter side. Of course, in this incident we cannot dispute, nor discredit the decision of Joseph, to put away Mary privily. Nevertheless, I want to imagine like this for a moment. If Joseph

had known the scriptures thoroughly, like the Chief priests and the scribes (Mtt. 2:5), or if he had been waiting for the coming of Messiah like Simeon, or if he had been seeking for the birth of King Jesus, like the wise men from the East, then Joseph would not have taken this decision to put Mary away privily. What I want you to learn from this incident is, that whenever we see or hear something bad or wrong about others, please try to take the brighter side of the possibility.

For example, you had asked someone to come to a particular place at a particular time. But he did not turn up, in spite of the urgency of the matter. Naturally, you are upset and you are a bit angry. Certainly, your friend ought not to have let you down. You are perfectly correct and justified in getting angry. But just wait a moment please! This is just one side of the real truth. In such situations, should we be blind to see the other side of the picture? It is quite likely, that your friend was coming to meet you - with all good intention, at the appointed time at the appointed place; but on his way, he might have met with an accident! Why don't you think of this possibility? This is what I mean by saying the other side of the picture - the brighter and better part of every situation that arises in our day-to-day life.

I personally learnt this recently in my own life. I wanted to withdraw some money from the bank in my college. I was busy with my class work, so I gave the cheque to my attendant, and asked him to give it to the bank, and then come and give the bank token to me. After two hours, I searched for him, but he was missing. When I made a thorough enquiry, I was told that he had gone

out and would return only in the afternoon. I waited patiently. I searched him all over the place in the afternoon. Someone said that he came to the college at 3-30 p.m. and went out again. I could not find him anywhere. He was seen by everyone, except by me. It was 4-30 p.m. - time to leave the college. Then, like a flash, one thought came to me, that is, to see the other side of the picture! Probably, he might have withdrawn the money, and might have put the cash and the passbook in my table drawer. Then, I quickly went to my room and opened my drawer. There, the cash and the passbook were lying. Yes! Without telling anyone, he has put the cash in my drawer and gone away quickly. When I was fuming and forming all my bad opinions about him in my mind, the cash was lying right inside my drawer!

I am sure, that Joseph, after the angel of God appeared to him, would have apologized to Mary, for his hasty and presumptuous decision to put her away privily. On this Christmas, let us not make rash decisions about others in any matter. Remember the story of the woman, who threw her water pot on the mongoose and killed it, because she thought it had killed her child, but in fact, it had protected her child from the snake! This world would be a better world to live in, if everyone looks at every situation, from another man's looking glass!

IV Personal sacrifice and hardships to protect 'Baby Jesus'

Protecting the new-born Baby Jesus was the chief concern of the parents. Joseph had to take the brunt of the whole responsibility, of taking Mary and Baby Jesus, to a foreign

country. The greatest and the most heroic role, was expected from Joseph at this crucial time of the history, and Joseph rose to the expectation of God. The above trip was made more difficult and hazardous, not only by the unknown destination of the exact location in Egypt, but also by its sudden-planning and urgency of the trip. Any undue delay on their part would mean a life-and-death question for Baby Jesus! There was always the lurking danger of being intercepted by the soldiers of Herod! The journey to Egypt was full of tension and drama.

Joseph had to bring to his memory, all his knowledge about Geography and different routes. He had to depend upon all his skills of touring, his presence of mind, and his ability to evade the searching eyes of all the soldiers, occasionally playing hide and seek. Many decades back, Bangladesh, the erstwhile East Pakistan, became independent. During the years of transition, many from East Bengal under Pakistan's control were escaping into India's border unto West Bengal. During such an attempt, a group of 30 people were hiding inside a bush, and the Pakistani soldiers were seen combing the area for those who are escaping into India's border. At that wrong moment, a small child among the group hiding in the bush started crying. Immediately, the mother choked the child to death, lest the whole group of 30 people be spotted out and shot dead by the searching soldiers. Such was the danger implied in the escape of Joseph, Mary and Baby Jesus, to a place of safety. Egypt, which was a symbol of slavery for the Jews, proved to be a place of safety for Baby Jesus! It was a journey in the reverse - from

the Promised land to Egypt. Joseph and Mary did not cross any Red Sea, nor took 40 years, but just took a few days to travel from Canaan to Egypt.

I wonder, if Joseph and Mary knew anyone in Egypt or not! The question that might have frequently cropped up in their mind was where to go and stay after reaching Egypt? Did they have enough money to stay in an inn? I think not. It is really an awful experience to land in a place - not knowing anyone, nor finding any place to stay. Recently, I had such an experience. I was scheduled to speak in a meeting at Geddhai and Manjoore in Nilgiris. There was some problem with the bus. Instead of arriving at 8-30 p.m., it arrived at 12-30 past midnight - 4 hours late! I did not know anyone in that place. I went to a lodge but I was told that the owner had gone home. I tried another lodge and kept on knocking at the door for 15 minutes, but no one replied - simply because there was no one inside that room. It was shivering cold and I have to get a place to stay that night. Then I saw someone coming out of his house in that street and I told him my plight. He took me to another house where the lodge owner was sleeping. At last, I got a room stay! Of course, the bus conductor had told me that in case I don't get a place, he had asked me to come to the halting bus to spend the night. What would have happened if I was caught in the above situation, not alone, but along with my wife and a few-months old baby in her hands? I shudder to think of such a possibility! This simple incident illustrates the gravity of the situation of Joseph and Mary, during their journey to Egypt.

In this Christmas, let us remember the hardship and sacrifice, Joseph and Mary underwent to protect Baby Jesus. Let us recall the enormous inconvenience both of them had to put up with, for the cause of preserving Baby Jesus. Are we ready to take Jesus Christ to a far-away place, putting up with all the inconveniences, with a missionary spirit, and to face up the challenges and brave the dangers lying ahead? Let us remember on this Christmas, that many - like Joseph and Mary - took the risk of taking Jesus to different nations, and in doing so, have lost their own lives - for the cause of Christ!

Summarizing the above, the Christmas message for us this year is this:

1) The Word of God is quick and powerful. No portion of the scripture is less important. So, don't omit reading the genealogy, the name list of the forefathers of Jesus Christ. By the way, did you read it? Christmas time is the most appropriate time for you to read all the names of the forefathers of Jesus Christ. This holy exercise will not only enable you to travel through the whole of the Old Testament, but also can be a tremendous inspiration for you.

2) Stop spreading bad news about others, whether true or false; not merely during just this Christmas season, but throughout your life. When Joseph heard about Mary, he decided to put her away privily. He did not publicise. So, on this Christmas day, let us stop spreading the bad news about others - whether true or false. When next time you

happen to hear someone telling something bad about others, you must remember Joseph.

3) Look at the other side of any news or situation. Any news we hear has many facets, including the brighter side of it. Let us always be careful not to exclude the possibility that we may be wrong, and that others may be correct. Let us learn to see the other man's point of view, not through our own looking glass, but through the other man's looking glass. God sent an Angel to change Joseph's bad opinion about Mary, but God may not always send a messenger - human or divine - to correct our wrong notions about others. God has given us enough scriptures to guide us right. *"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true,just,pure,lovely, of good report...., think on those things"* (Phil.4:8).

4) Take Jesus across the nations and oceans, amidst risks and dangers. Let us be ready to sacrifice our personal comforts and conveniences, and be ready to pay any personal price, to protect Christ and His cause, obeying His great Commission, *"Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature"*. If we do these and obey His command, surely, Jesus, the Immanuel, will always be with us, even unto the end of this world. If you do this, then this Christmas will be a true Christ-centered, Christ-honoured and meaningful Christmas for you, me and for everyone around us.

- Rev. Prof. S. Panneer Selvam

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR MISSIONARIES AND FOR THE CHILDREN AT OUR BAPPEN PALLI HOME

We are in need of Rs. 5 lakhs to be given as Christmas gift for our missionaries as well as to our children at our Bappen Palli Home. Our Promotional Staff and our Representatives will approach you for this purpose with printed covers and appeal. If you have not received such covers, you may kindly send your contribution to the Office of the IBT directly by M.O. / Cheque / DD / or ECS into our bank account. Thank you for your co-operation and contribution. God bless you and your family.

WE WISH YOU A HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR 2018

GREETINGS

*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given (Isaiah 9 : 6).
My Presence shall go with thee; and I will give thee rest (Exodus 33 : 14).*

In the sweet name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, we wish you all a
Merry Christmas and a Happy New year 2018.

***- All Office Bearers, Full time Workers and
Representatives of Indian Bible Translators***

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send their offerings to the following banks through ECS.**

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EDITORIAL

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christmas Greetings to you in the sweet name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men (Lk. 2 : 13,14).

God came to this world to give His 'Glory' to man. In the beginning, man, due to his sin, had lost the 'Glory of God'. God could give that 'Glory' back to man, only if the filth of his sin is removed. We are able to clean our body and clothes using soap. But how can we cleanse our soul that has been defiled by sin?

The Holy Bible says: *Without shedding of blood is no remission.* In the past, men sacrificed goats to get remission of sins. Our Lord Jesus Christ, bore all the sins of the entire world on the Cross and shed His blood to grant remission of sins to mankind. For this purpose alone, He came in the 'flesh' into this world - born as a human being, to cleanse the filth of the sins of men, and to give them the 'Glory of God' again.

Jesus said: *Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you.* Yes! The biggest need of mankind is 'Peace'. If an individual is at peace, then his family is at peace; if the families are at peace, the city is at peace. If the cities and nations are at peace, the entire world is at peace. So, Jesus Christ was born to give 'peace' to mankind. Let us desire with thirst, to receive the 'peace' of Jesus Christ.

The host of angels praised also for *'good will toward men'*. We read in Romans 5 : 8, *"God Commendeth His love toward us'*.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life (John 3 : 16).

Because our God takes pleasure in us and loves us, He has borne our griefs, carried our sorrows, was wounded for our transgressions, was bruised for our iniquities; bearing the chastisement on our behalf and gave us Life. Such meaningful, wonderful and amazing is the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Glory and honour unto the Most High be,
Peace and Reconciliation on earth do we see,
Love and favour on men shall ever be.

In the translation field, language checking is in progress in some books of the Old Testament as well as New Testament. Efforts are being made to speed-up the publication of New Testament in some languages. On 12th November 2017, Bro.Vanaraj gave God's message in the CSI Church at Sowripalayam, Coimbatore. On the same day, Bro.Simon shared God's message and Bro. D. Vasu explained about IBT Ministries, in the CSI Church at Satchiyapuram. On 26th November 2017, Bro.D.Vasu gave God's message in the CSI Church at Theni. The Book of Psalms translated in Chhattisgarhi language, was exegetically checked by BSI. The construction of compound wall around our Children Home at Bappenpalli, is nearing completion.

Please pray for IBT Ministries. May the Peace of God and the Grace of God protect you and lead your life.

Yours in the Service of Christ
Mrs. D. Sudandira Devi

FIELD NEWS

Translator / Missionary :

Bro.Ruben Antharu

Mission Field : Ponduguda (Odisha)

Language : Deshia

By the abundant grace of God, I could visit the following villages - Bamuni, Kuttiguda, Madbal, Rajoda, Semla, Mogia, Hirly, Gargi, Kasmi, Runiguda, Denguguda, Selaguda, Kadabatta, Kanthapuri - and preached the Gospel. I distributed the Gospel books translated in Deshia and Mirgan languages along with some tracts in Odiya language. I gave God's message in the Friday Fasting Prayer Meetings as well as in the Sunday Worship Services. 8 believers from Adibasiguda and 5 from Bamuni attended the Fasting Prayer meetings. Brothers Manoj, Jagat, Samuel, Navin, Manraj, Shankar, Baldev, Sudhakar, Sisters Purna Laxman, Turmilabai, Sabitha, Sathya Saras, Pubithra, Hebina, have all accepted Jesus as their personal Saviour. The Graceful God released totally Sister Pubithra from possession of evil spirit while praying. Pray for them all to grow in the Lord and also pray for my missionary work and for my family.

Missionary : Bro.Ashish Swal Singh

Mission Field : Begaput (Odisha)

Greetings in the sweet name of our Lord Jesus Christ! By God's grace, last month I visited villages Satsangu, Kuvarguda, Ambugaon, Gulmul, Gilar, Sarangul, Littiguda, meeting more than 400 persons. I distributed 200 tracts and 150 copies of New Testament translated in Boda Porja language and preached the Gospel. The

new persons met were brothers Rabi Mahant, Raj, Gunapathi, Ranjan and Sisters Parvathi and Rashmita. Sisters Prafulla, Sisira, Suravati, Bhagavathi, Rebecca, Gita, Prapta are willing to take Baptism. We prayed with burden for sister Gracy and she became well from jaundice. We are conducting literacy classes for children in the evening. 30 children are participating, Sunday Worship Services, were held at Begaput, Ambugaon and Shrunkala. 80 believers participated. Friday Prayers, Family Prayers and Second Saturday Fasting Prayers and Sunday Class for Children were also conducted. Please pray for my missionary work and for my family.

Translator : Bro.Prakash Bagora

Mission Field : Agoria (Rajasthan)

Language : Wagri

Greetings in the sweet name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

By God's grace, last month I could translate into Wagri language portions of Old Testament, II Kings 7 : 1 to 13 : 25. I visited villages Pagadia, Chhatri, Sonpura, Naguma and Agoria, giving tracts and preaching the Gospel. In Chhatri villiage, Bro.Hirabhai of Doli community was very sick, with rare hope of survival. He called about on the name of Jesus. He says Jesus appeared to him in a vision and healed him. He organized a special prayer meeting and gave testimony before all. His family is willing to take Baptism! Praise the Lord!

ENTERED INTO GLORY

We deeply regret to inform that our senior IBT Representative from Kumbakonam, **Bro. John Baskar**, has entered into the Glory of the Lord on 30th October 2017. Please pray for the bereaved family to be consoled by the Lord.

PRAY AND PRAISE

1. Praise the Lord for the language checking done in their respective mission stations in respect of Kuduk, Halbi (Chhattisgarh), Irula (Velliangadu) and Irula (Kunjappanai) - (Tamilnadu) languages. Please pray for the release of New Testament in these languages.
2. Language checking of the books of Psalms and Proverbs translated into Bhojpuri and Chhattisgarhi languages is in progress. Pray for the early printing and release of these two books in these two languages.
3. Language checking of the Old Testament translated into Baduga and Sourashtra languages is in progress. Pray for the early completion of the work and for the release of Full Bible in these two languages.
4. Repairs work to the Kitchen as well as residence of the missionaries in our Children's Home at Bappen Palli is to begin soon. Pray for meeting the financial needs and for the early completion of this work.
5. Please pray for meeting all the needs of the IBT Ministries, as well as for the Christmas and New Year worship services in all the churches. Also pray that this Christmas and the New Year 2018 be a blessing and a happy rejoicing for everyone.
6. IBT ministries still need promotional staff for a number of places. Please pray for getting proper youth with ministerial burden for these places.

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