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SATHTHIYA VAARTHAI

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HOUSE OF THE LORD

Man was born with a built-in instinct to worship his Creator, his God. Every religion in this world teaches the importance of worshipping God. Many religious wars have been fought in this world in the past. In our own country of India, a great controversy that has threatened the very root of democracy of India has risen out of a piece of land of worship between Muslims and Hindus. It is still a bone of contention even today between them. According to the Bible, man was primarily created to worship God. Worshipping God is not only a bounden duty of every human being but also it is the essence of his very existence in this world. A proverb in Tamil goes to the extent of saying, "A village without a temple is not worth living". The American history tells us that the people who migrated to America through the May Flower Ship from Europe hundreds of years ago, went there for the sole purpose of

worshipping God freely and independently. Yes! Every man or woman born in this world wants to worship God in one way or the other. Once an African met a missionary who taught him how to worship the living God and his Saviour Jesus Christ and then the missionary gave him the Bible, the God's book. The African went back to his native place and shared what the missionary told him with his people. But when they gathered to worship God, the African completely forgot what the missionary instructed him how to worship God. Having forgotten the method of worship, he suggested another way to worship God. He placed the Bible on a table and all of them sat around that table quietly and calmly with all reverence for God for 30 minutes and then got up and went away. Do you think God would have accepted such a worship? I am sure God would have not only accepted such a worship but must have

gladly approved also.

In the Old Testament times, God allowed worship service at only one place in the whole world viz., at Jerusalem. It was a localised worship service. But in the New Testament period this restriction was removed by the Lord Jesus. When he was talking to the Samaritan woman, he made the announcement of the new policy in worship by telling her, "Time comes when people will worship God, not only in Jerusalem but every where." (Jn 4:21 only in Tamil Bible not in English version) Yes! we can worship God anywhere in the world - may be in an aircraft flying at an altitude of 35,000 ft or deep down in the sea at a depth of 5 k.m. in a submarine, in the jungles of Africa or in the white house of American President. It is true that God has given us freedom to worship God anywhere in this world at any time of the day. But we should be careful not to indulge in misusing this freedom. One should not think that since God has given us freedom to worship Him anywhere, there is no need to go to the church and hence we can worship God in our home itself. This is a dangerous thinking. We should never undermine the importance of Sunday worship service in the temple of God. Jesus has set an example for us by attending the service and participating in the worship service. Listening to a message is not the only purpose of our going to the church. If that is the only purpose, we can as well have a radio or T.V. and listen to a wonderful program sitting at home. No! That

is not the only purpose. We go to the church to enjoy the presence of God and the fellowship with other children of God.

The Psalmist (122:1) says, "I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord". Yes! Going to the house of the Lord is a joyful experience. It is a pilgrimage. It is a spiritual celebration. David says' "Lord, I have loved the habitation of Thy house and the place where Thine honour dwelleth". Jesus loved the house of the Lord and when he saw that it was being misused and abused by making it a place of trade and mercenarie, Jesus became so angry that he drove all the mercenaries out of the temple of God. Yes! Jesus had a great passion and zeal for the house of the Lord. He is our example to emulate. Often we go to the church as a matter of routine duty. This ought not to be so. As we go to the temple of God, we must have clear objectives. In this message we are going to meditate on the topic, "House of the Lord and why we go there."

1. To listen to God's counsel - It is a school of learning God's ways. (Mic 4:2).
2. To behold the beauty of the Lord - House of gazing at His glory. (Ps 27:4).
3. To offer praises to God - House of praise (Ps 135:1,2).
4. To get sanctified - House of Holiness (Ps 93:5).

5. To pay our vows and offerings - House of offering (Ps 66:13).

6. To offer our prayers - House of prayer (Mk 11:16,17).

1. School of learning God's ways and His counsel :

And many nations shall come and say, come and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord and to the house of the God of Jacob and he will teach us His ways and we will walk in His paths. (Mic 4:2).

The house of the Lord is a school of learning; God is the teacher; we are all His students. We must take time to learn our life's lessons from God during the time of worship. During the week days outside the church as we mingle with different people, we tend to be vulnerable to the attack of the enemy; sometimes we succumb to satan's temptations and become his victims. As we continue our walk with God we tend to go off the track laid by God for us. At that time what we need most is God's timely correction of our life's course. All the communication satellites launched into space follow a given orbit in the outer space. But due to various external forces in the outer space, it often tends to go off the orbit. At that time, we send a correcting signal from the ground station to put back the satellite into the right path and on the pre-determined path. Ofcourse, this correction can be continued only for a maximum period of 5 years in the

orbit and hence it becomes a useless and wayward object in the space after 5 years. Making spiritual application of the above, we must also receive a correcting signal from God every week at the worship service if we are to stay on God's pre-determined orbit. We must remember that God has set a given orbit for each one of us. Just like a satellite which receives the message signal from the ground station and beams it across the whole world, we must also receive a message from God in heaven and transmit it to all the people around us. In this process of long distance communication, we must not forget to receive correcting signal from God to stay on the right orbit lest we become a useless wayward object in this world.

Yes! We go the temple of God to listen to God's instructions and teachings so that we can correct ourselves. God says, "My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways; As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." (Isa 55 : 8,9) Dear child of God, as you read this message, just check up yourself whether you have been walking in the past week in God's ways or in your own ways. The Bible says that the steps of a good man are ordered (and controlled) by God. (Psa 37:23). The Word of God warns us. "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Prov. 14:12).

When we go to the temple of God for worship, we must go there with an open heart and receptive mind without any prejudice or bias about the speaker or the church. I have often experienced in my life that whenever I go to the worship service or any meeting with a hunger and thirst for God's Word, God does speak to me. Not necessarily always through the preacher but even through a song or a short exhortation or personal testimony or through some words uttered by the pastor or the preacher or even through the announcements or any often repeated ceremony during the service. A particular word will touch you. So you must be on the look out for that 'word' in the worship service which is exclusively meant for meeting your particular need. Next time when you attend the worship service, go with a thirst and hunger for God's message, I am sure you will not go unsatisfied.

God wants to teach you His ways. Are you out of step with God? Are you very much off the course set by God in your life? Are you feeling a little uncomfortable to go to the temple of God? Do you often indulge in criticising the preachers, sermons and pastors? Are you finding fault with everyone around you? Are you becoming angry and getting provoked for simple and silly matters? These are the symptoms to prove that there is something drastically wrong within you. Before you could detect the speck in other's eyes you would do better if you remove the log in your own eye first. God wants to

correct you; Listen to God's counsels. Be willing to correct yourself when God points out a blatant mistake and a presumptuous sin in your life.

Be careful when you go to the house of God and be more ready to hear than to give the sacrifice as foolish people do. Be not rash with thy mouth and let not thine heart be hasty to utter anything before God. (Eccl 5:1,2).

2. To behold the beauty of the Lord :

One thing have I desired of the Lord that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord and to enquire in His temple. (Ps 27:4).

David had a strange and wonderful desire whenever he went into the temple of God, to behold the beauty and glory of the Lord. What is meant by seeing the beauty of the Lord? It means just gazing at the Lord Jesus, His glory, His majesty and His beauty of holiness. As we continuously look on and gaze at Him, we can also become like Him. There is a beautiful song, "Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me all His wondrous compassion and purity." Some of the TV cameras try to retain its old pictures in its image plate causing blurring of pictures. To get rid of the old pictures still sticking to it, they focus the camera to a white screen. Similarly when we see so many things in this world, those wordly things try to stick to our

inner man. To get rid of that, our minds should be focused on to Jesus very often so that the mind of Christ and His purity of thought will be renewed in our inner man.

In the Old Testament times, whenever people gathered at the temple of God for worship, the "Shekinah" the glory of the Lord used to descend upon the congregation. Seeing the glory of the Lord in the temple was an ordinary experience for the people. Probably that has prompted David to write the above. In the temple built by King Solomon, the Bible says, "The priests could not stand to minister because the glory of the Lord had filled the house of the Lord." (I King 8:11) Just like David, Moses also had the same unquenchable thirst and longing to see the glory of God. But knowing fully well that there is no one who can see God's glory and yet live, God asked Moses to see only the back parts of His glory and not His face (Ex 33:22,23). Because these great men of God had so much passion for the glory of God, no doubt their lives also reflected the glory of God.

When God created man, He created him in the glory of God. But when man sinned against God, man lost that glory. That is why the Bible says that man has sinned and come short of the glory of God (Rom 3:23), when Israelites lost their war against the Philistines, the Bible says the glory of God departed - 'ichabod' - (I Sam. 4:21). At the top of the mountain of transfiguring the

raiment of Jesus became shining exceeding white as snow, a symbol of God's glory. Peter and other two disciples saw the glory of God shining through Jesus. When we go to the house of the Lord, we must have the same experience to see the glory of the Lord -- like the disciples. Once a preacher was preaching in a particular church. As he was preaching, he saw one brother in the crowd whose face was always shining. Often he was found shouting 'glory' 'glory'. After the sermon, the preacher was anxious to know more about that person. Someone said, "Oh, you mean that 'glory' brother, he walys lives at the top of the mountain of transfiguration" -- what a beautiful testimony of living always at the top of the mountain of transfiguration!

If you want to see the glory of God in the house of the Lord on Sunday, then you must live a life that will bring glory and honour to God during the week days. We should long to see the glory of God not only in the Houses of the Lord but outside also. That means we should worship the Lord not only in the temple of God but outside also -- in our homes, our office, factories and in our working places, shops and in streets. In fact our real worship begins when we leave the house of the Lord after the Sunday service.

Next time when you go to house of the Lord, go with a deep desire to see the glory of God. God will certainly reveal His glory to you in one way or the other during the worship service. Do not be satisfied with that.

Try to seek the glory of God everywhere you go and all the time of your life.

And the glory of the Lord abode upon the mount Sinai and God called Moses out of the cloud. The sight of the glory of the Lord was like devouring fire on the top of the mount in the eyes of Israel. (Ex. 24 : 16, 17)

3. To offer our praises to God :

Praise ye the Lord, Praise ye the name of the Lord; praise Him; O ye servants of the Lord that stand in the house of the Lord. (Ps 135:1,2).

Another important reason why we go to the house of the Lord is given above. To offer our praise and sense of gratitude to God for what He has done for us in our lives. Our ability to praise God spontaneously even in the darkest moment of our life is the surest and strongest step towards victorious and joyful Christian life. Usually when we are down in our spirits, we do not feel like going to the church much less praising God over there. We must shake off such negative attitude. We must overcome all the barriers of discouragement and difficult situations and attend the worship service at any cost. Once you come to the presence of God, then God will speak to you and bless you.

The Bible commands us to praise God in the house of the Lord. You do not need one lakh rupees in your bank account to offer praises to God. In fact only those who have a

lot of money will find it difficult to praise God. We must praise God not for what we have but for what God has done for us. Stop looking at the things that you do not have. But rather look at the things that you do have. During a train journey most of the passengers were grumbling openly because there was no seat and hence they were forced to stand in the train. As some of them were complaining of leg pain, a lame without legs was carried into the train and of course he was duly given a seat. When the lame passenger heard the complaints and grumbings of the standing public he said, "How you are fortunate to stand on your legs. How I wish I could have legs to stand like you and experience the joy of standing on my feet. "When others heard this lame man's preaching, everyone standing on his leg kept quiet. Yes! we take so many blessings for granted and we do not see what we have. We need a lame man to remind us that we have legs and blind man to tell us that God has blessed us with two beautiful eyes.

Mrs. Charles Cowman tells of a missionary working in China who was facing a lot of problems and hence was in a very depressed mood. Even though he prayed earnestly for months together to get victory over depression and discouragement, there seemed to be no way. At last he decided to leave his mission station and go over to an interior region and pray there till he got victory. So he went to that place and was entertained in a fellow missionary's home.

Here he happened to see a wall text with an inscription. 'Feeling depressed? Try thanks giving'. These words had an electrifying effect on him. He thought within himself, "All the time I have been only praying and complaining but never have I praised God." Immediately he began to praise God and started counting the blessings of God in his life and he felt a great relief and upliftment in his spiritual life. He returned to his mission station and served the Lord with renewed strength. The secret of his new found strength was praising God.

Yes! Praising God even in the darkest hour of our life, will lift up our spirit and enable us to see a silver lining in the midst of dark clouds. When I had a heart attack in Canada recently all of a sudden I experienced a crushing pain in my chest, sweating profusely, my eyes swirling around, my wife touched my hands and felt it as cold as ice. At that time, my wife as if activated by the Holy Spirit, started praising God and I also started praising God probably at the darkest time of my whole life. As I was driven to the hospital, both of us were praising God. Immediately I felt the presence of God very close to me and He comforted me and promised me to turn this occasion for His glory. I know it is very difficult. But we must learn to praise God in every situation in our life. When Joshua and the people of Israel praised God and shouted at the top of their voice, and Jericho walls fell flat.

Dear child of God, when you go to the temple of God, open your mouth and praise God whole heartedly. God has given you manifold blessings for which you have to praise Him. Sing with me the following hymn.

Praise Him when the sun is shining
When the winds of trouble blow
When you see no silver lining
On the clouds that hang so low

Praise illumines clouds of sorrow
Turns the gray skies into gold
Giving promise of a morrow
Bright with blessings manifold

Praise Him when your load is heavy
And the day no comfort brings
Then your burden God will carry
Bear you as on eagles wing.

4. To get sanctified in the House of Holiness :

Holiness becometh thine house, O Lord, for ever (Ps 93:5).

I tell you this man (the publican) went down to his house justified rather than the other (Pharisee); for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted (Lk 18:14).

When we stepped into the house of the Lord it does not matter what kind of person we were. But when we leave it we must certainly be a better person. When the

publican walked into the temple of God, he was a condemned sinner. But when he left it, he was a justified and forgiven saint of God. There is a spiritual overhauling and transformation that takes place in the house of the Lord. Legally and morally there can be no better and more appropriate place for conviction and confession of our sins than the House of the Lord. Like the prophet Isaiah we must realise the holiness of God and our own unholiness and unworthiness and hear seraphims proclaiming "Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of hosts" and cry out "woe unto me for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips". When we see the all - Holy God, we feel unclean, undone and corrupt from our head to foot before His presence (Isa 6:1-6). Here Isaiah is more concerned about what he is than what he had done or not done. Yes! what we are is more important than what we have done for God. God is more interested in His servants than thier services for Him. Holiness of life is more important than the doctrine of holiness. One act of right doing is more valuable than thousands of right sermons. Recently I was talking to a missionary. I was enquiring more about his personal life. But he was more anxious to talk about his missionary work. So when I kept on asking more and more about his personal life, he was disturbed and he shot the following question at me, "You are only asking about my personal life and you have not asked about my missionary work." For that I told him quietly, "Tell me which is more important -- your personal life and testimony or your

preaching and service to God". Immediately he got my point and responded. "Yes! Yes! My personal life is more important than my missionary service."

God says, "Be ye holy for I am holy." Infact holiness is the literal high way that leads us to the temple of God as per Is 35:8 and the unclean shall not pass over it. Zech 14:21 says all the pots in Jerusalem shall be holiness unto the Lord. These 'pots' obviously refer to the bodies of the believers in the New Testament. In II Cor. 7:1, Paul exhorts us to cleanse ourselves from all the filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of the Lord. Here Paul talks of holiness as a three dimensional concept which has got both the surface area of our life and influence as well as depth in our character. The holiness must be found in every area and aspect of our life -- family life, personal and private life, in our business life, social life, our life with our neighbours, money matters, marital relation, working place and in every aspect of our life. Paul says that our holiness must be aimed at perfection. That means our holiness must not be just skin deep but grow in depth and in quality. Sometimes in the eyes of the public, we may be found to be holy but not in the sight and evaluation of God. God desireth truth in our inward parts (Ps. 51:6).

One man by name Jerome Simeon lived on top of the pillar for many years spending his time in prayer and seclusion. He became very famous and became St. Simeon very soon. One man who has heard the fame of

St. Simeon wanted to emulate this Saint. So he put a stool in his kitchen instead of a pillar and started spending his time in prayer like St. Simeon. But his cook and other family members did not see eye to eye with him and they succeeded in making his attempt to lead a saintly life at home a miserable one. At last he gave up and declared, "You cannot be a saint at home."

We may just smile at the above. But we must remember that God does not want us to practise holiness at home by sitting at the top of a stool in the kitchen corner. Rather God wants us to practise holiness as we talk and move and lead a normal life with our family members and as we face our life's various vexing problems.

Dear Christian friend! Are you leading a holy life? It is true that Jesus forgave the sin of the woman caught in adultery by telling her, "Neither do I condemn you" but he hastened to add, "But sin no more." (Jn. 8:11) Remember the words of the queen of England to her children when they wanted to go and play in the street with other children "Royal children, Royal behaviour". Yes! if we are the children of a Holy God, then we must lead a holy life.

For God has not called us unto uncleanness but unto holiness (I Thes 4:7).

God has chastened us for our profit so that we might be partakers of His holiness (Heb 12:10).

5. House of Prayer :

Jesus taught them saying, "Is it not written my house shall be called the house of prayer? But you have made it a den of thieves" (Mk 11:17).

There can be no greater and appropriate name for the house of the Lord than the House of prayer. The holiest ritual that can be performed in the House of Lord is our prayer to our Almighty God. The prayer links the human with the divine, providing a communication between the Creator and the creations. Though it is true that God can speak to and hear from His children anywhere at any time in the whole world, the house of the Lord is a true and sacred place, authenticated and earmarked by God as a meeting place between us and God. Though we can meet and talk to our friends at any place - in a restaurant or in a park or in the train or bus station, we feel more satisfied and more comfortable if they come and meet us at our homes. Similarly, we can feel the presence of God more easily in the house of the Lord and we can be more confident that He hears our prayers in the presence of children of God.

So when we come to the house of the Lord, be sure to talk to the Lord and allow God to talk to you. The tragedy of today's worship system is that only the pastor and someone else authorised by him pray in the service and the congregation is given little opportunity to pray. This is a serious flaw in

the worship service. In every service atleast for some time during the service the congregation should be given an opportunity to pray to God directly and spontaneously. Who knows there may be some Hannahs in the congregation who wants to pour out her heart in the presence of God.

Yes! We go to the temple of God to learn the importance of prayer. John Wesley's prayer room in his house was described as the power house of Methodism. The Moravian missionary movement grew three times because it organised a 24-hour prayer chain which continued for more than 100 years. The men who have accomplished most for God have been men of prayer. Samuel Rutherford got up at 3 O'Clock each morning to wait upon God. John Fletcher was said to have stained the walls of his chamber by the breath of his prayers. Think of David Brainard dying at the age of 29 and Henry Martin at the age of 31 and yet they stand out as great missionaries not so much for their actual labours which soon disappeared but they are more known for their prayer life and saintly characters.

6. House of offerings :

I will go into thy house with offerings and I will pay Thee my vows (Ps 66:13).

The Psalmist exhorts us to go to the house of the Lord to pay our vows and give our offerings. In fact the first worship service conducted by Abel and Cain consisted of only

one item of the worship viz., taking offerings for God. If there is a worship service in which there is no preaching, no singing, no praising but only offering, most of us will stop attending such a service. But it is quite incredible to know that Abel and Cain held the first worship service to God by giving their offerings to God without ever being instructed nor induced by others much less by their parents Adam and Eve. Yes! we go to the house of the Lord not only to give the offerings of our lips but also offerings from our pockets and purses. Even a heathen who does not know God and the Bible, knows that whenever he goes to the temple of God, he must give his offerings to God. Giving offering to God is an important integral part of worship without which the worship service becomes incomplete. Giving is living. It is more blessed to give than to receive. (Ac 20:35). In the land of Israel there is one sea or strictly speaking a big lake called Dead Sea where there is only an inflow of water but no out flow. Hence there is no life in it and so it is rightly called 'Dead Sea'. Similarly, any Christian who always wants to receive from God but never wants to give a rupee to God is also a dead Christian. We can write off his spiritual life. Instead we should be like the river Jordan always flowing out through the length and the breadth and overflowing on all sides -- meeting the needs of people giving life and sustenance all around. Do not be a dead sea but be a Jordan river always running full and overflowing.

Dear reader, are you giving to God regularly? As long as we want to receive some blessings from God, we must keep giving to God. If you want God to stop blessing you, then only you can stop giving to God. Someone said, "Talk to a man about his money; a chip of his character will come out of him." How true it is. Charles Page was a youngman but financially he was a wreck, penniless and jobless. One day as he was walking along the streets he heard a Salvation Army preacher in a service. Having no work to do, he went inside as an onlooker, when the tamborine was passed around for the offerings he told the woman who held it out towards him that he would like very much to give to God but he had no money even to buy his next meals. Immediately that woman gave him a dollar saying, "Take this. Put ten cents in the offering. Decide hereafter to give a tenth of all you get to God. Follow this principle throughout your life and you will never be again penniless and jobless. "Touched by these words that man began to give tithe from that day onwards regularly. He got a better job. By and by he became a millionaire and gave much more than mere tithe.

Dear friend, give to God and God will give it back to you pressed and overflowing. God is not a debtor to anyone. Give to God cheerfully and joyfully. Remember that giving to the Lord is but transporting our goods to a higher floor and investing in a company which

gives the maximum interest and return -- not on the earth but in heaven.

Dear brothers and sisters! As you go to the house of the Lord every week to worship God, try to ask yourself the question 'Why do I go there?' 'What is the purpose of my going to the temple of God? First of all give all ears and be attentive to God's instructions and counsels and correct your life. Beware you may be going in the wrong track. Second, be anxious and eager to behold the beauty and glory of the Lord. Just keep on looking on the Lord Jesus again and again until you become like Jesus. Third, we go there to offer our praises to Him. Do not look at your problems. God has given you enough blessings to enable you to praise Him for ever. Just open your mouth and praise God. he will fill your mouth all his goodness. Fourth, we go to the house of the Lord to get sanctioned and to obtain God's holiness. It is the house of prayer. It is a place where we can freely pour out our hearts through prayer where we can freely pour out our hearts through prayer and we can meet God and talk to Him face to face. Last, it is the house of offering. We must give our offerings and tithes to God cheerfully and joyfully. If you do all these every time you go to the house of the Lord then surely goodness and mercies shall follow you all through your life.

- Rev. Prof. S. Panneer Selvam

NEWS LETTER

We convey our greetings Dear readers of Saththiya Vaarthai in the sweet name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

"Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law." (Ps. 119:18).

When we read the Holy Bible we are wonder struck by the wondrous creations and valuable doctrines. All we have is only one Bible. Every time we read the Bible we receive new insights, deep meanings, new hopes and blessings and perennial spring of spiritual truths. This holy book awakens one who is spiritually dead by sins and ignorance and helps him to stand with renewed spiritual strength. It teaches us how to live a life of triumph. Therefore, reading this holy Bible every day and meditating on what is read will ensure our spiritual progress day by day. With our goal to provide the Bible in the mother tongues of the Indians speaking different languages we are engrossed in the service of translating the Bible in various Indian languages. The New Testament translated in Thoda language is being printed. On Saturday the 7.1.2017, a fasting prayer meeting was held in the IBT head office. On that occasion Sister Dr. Joy Vasanthi gave a beautiful message based on Neh 2:13 as to how our life door should be. On 8.1.2017 Bro Timothy introduced the IBT ministries in the Good News church, Coimbatore, and also gave God's message. On 14 and 15 January 2017 IBT Planning committee meeting was held in IBT head office. On the first day Bro. D. Vasu gave

God's message and on the second day Bro. S. Timothy gave God's message. On Saturday the 21.1.2017, during the fasting prayer meeting held at St Paul's Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Coimbatore, also Bro. Timothy gave God's message. On 22.1.17 Bro. D. Vasu gave God's message and introduced IBT ministries at St Peter's church in Satchiyapuram in Sivakasi. We thank Rev. Sam Prabu who gave us permission for this ministry and we thank Bro. Varamaniraj who arranged this meeting. On the same day Bro. Ravi introduced IBT ministries in the CSI church in Saththur and Bro Rajasekar (Coimbatore) gave God's message. On behalf of IBT we thank the pastor and church committee members for giving us permission for the above. We also thank Bro Ravi of Thammanayakkanpatti who arranged this meeting. On 26.1.17 a one-day IBT meeting was conducted at CSI Christ church on Trichy Road, Coimbatore. The full details of this meeting will be given in the next issue.

"Love the Lord's Bible."

"Read the Lord's Bible."

"Meditate on the Lord's Bible"

"Obey the commandments in the Lord's Bible."

"It will show you the path as you walk."

"It will protect you while you sleep."

"It will speak to you while you are awake."

God bless you all.

Sis. Navamani

FIELD NEWS

Translator : Bro Chandran

Language : Baduga

Mission field : Aravangadu (Tamil Nadu)

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ.

By the abundant grace of the Lord, from the last month I have been translating the book of Ecclesiastes chapters 1 to 3. The final checking of the translated book of Jeremiah was done last month along with Rev Subramani, BSI. Please pray for speedy completion of key-in work. We are sharing the Word of God in a few villages without any hindrance. We thank you for your prayer. Please pray for the divine protection and peace of the church members here and for the steady growth of my ministry among the congregation.

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Translator : Bro Samuel

Language : Irula

Mission field : Vattalaakki (Tamil Nadu)

May the name of our Lord be glorified.

Last month the key-in work of OT book Genesis was completed. In the New Testament two gospel books namely Mark and Luke have been released. Please pray for the divine hand in checking the other books and for His guidance

in this work. During the last few months there had been much trouble in some villages due to wild animals. Please pray for the divine protection for all of us here and also for my ministry and family.

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Translator : Bro Prakash Pakora

Language : Vaakri

Mission field : Akoria (Rajasthan State)

Greetings in the name of Father God and Lord Jesus Christ.

Last month I translated 1 Samuel chapters 1 to 14. In the past years all the 4 gospel books were translated in Vaakri language and the key-in work in the computer was also completed. These days I am translating OT books. More than 40 souls are participating in the worship service conducted in the mission field Akoria. God has given us four more souls through my ministry in 2 new villages. Please pray for the salvation of these people and for my ministry and my family.

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Missionary : Bro Ram Mani Saket

Mission field : Riva (Madhya Pradesh)

Greetings in the sweet name of Lord Jesus Christ.

I praise God who by His abundant grace enabled me to do my missionary work without any hindrance. During the last few months we visited the villages Paliya, Behera, Dhanagan and Regunatgenj and shared the love of Jesus Christ. Some of the villagers heard the gospel with keen interest. Moreover, they (Rajesh, Paramanand, Rajbagur and Kaali) asked me to pray for the problems in their families. Please pray for the planting of churches in new villages and for more souls.

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Missionary : Bro SobatramTobo

Mission field :Lailunga (Chattisgarh)

By the abundant grace of the Lord the checking of the translated portion of Acts chapters 1 to 16 was completed. Last month I visited the villages Potra, Pathalgoam, Ghat, Katangior, Lailunga, Rupdinga, Kheelama and Kagelpara and shared the Good News with the villagers. The people received tracts and gospel books happily. God's message was shared with many children in the form of stories. In the evenings we met our church believers and encouraged them with God's Word. These days they participate in Sunday worship services and fasting prayer meetings. Please pray for the youth to retain their testimony and for the growth of our church.

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Missionary : Bro Jothi Maya Dagri

Mission field : Sakthi (Madhya Pradesh)

May the name of the Lord be glorified. The Lord gave me the grace to visit 16 villages last month. As family we distributed tracts and gospel books and told the villagers about the sacrifice and love of Jesus Christ. Twenty two souls in those villages are keen about the gospel. We asked them to join the church worship services conducted at Sakthi mission field. Some of them came to the church and participated in the worship service. Finally, those who came from distant villages requested me to conduct house worship services in their villages. Please pray for their salvation. Many souls in our church are enslaved by many trials and tribulations. Please pray for them to be strong in their faith.

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Translator : Bro Samuel Chanda

Language : Kuvi

Mission field : Katni (Uttar Kand)

Last month by the abundant grace of the Lord the checking of the translated portion of John 19:3 to Acts 14:28 was completed. We go to a few new villages as family and share with the villagers the love of Jesus Christ without any hindrance. We receive cordial welcome in the villages Jhala Guda, Mandar Guda, Beja Guda, Chikal Mari and Kanda. In the village

JagalGuda we met a person named Londu and told him about the call of Jesus Christ. He listened to us with keen interest and asked us to go over to his village and pray for them. Apart from praying for his salvation, we met a person named Mandaavuguda and told him about the call of Jesus Christ. He too listened to us with keen interest and some others named Aimly, Sapura and Damana heard God's Word with interest. They too asked us to conduct prayer meetings in their village. Please pray for my family and our ministry.

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Translator : Bro Patric Rusvelt

Mission field : Biplodu (Rajasthan State)

Language : Hadothi

I praise the Lord from the heart of my hearts. The grace He has shown me is great. By the abundant grace of the Lord, last month I completed the translation of OT book Isaiah chapters 1 to 34 in Hadothi language. Please pray that God should enable us to complete the translation of the entire Bible in this language soon. I am encouraging a family who come to our church newly, telling them about the love of Jesus Christ. They are living in much hardship. Please pray for them and for their salvation. We

are meeting many oppositions daily in our ministry. Please pray for the fellowship of our church believers and for my translation work and my family.

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Translator : Bro DeveshKumari

Mission field : Chattarpur

(Madhya Pradesh)

Language : Pandeli

I greet you all who are in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ. Last month the translation of the book of Isaiah chapters 13 to 33 was completed. By the grace of the Lord, fasting prayer meeting was conducted on the second Saturday. On that occasion we prayed for many things. God blessed us abundantly. God gave us two more new souls. After the church worship was over, they asked us to come over to their house. Next day we visited their house and encouraged them with the Word of God. They expressed their wish to continue their participation in the church. Their names are Durjadan and Jaganath. Please pray for the growth in their faith and for the speedy translation of the entire Bible in Pandeli language.

PRAY & PRAISE

During December 2016, Christmas was celebrated in the IBT Office at Coimbatore as well as in the Children Home at Bappanpalli, Odisha and other mission fields for the Glory of God and the Son of God.

On 14, 15.01.2017 Planning meeting was conducted in the IBT Office, Coimbatore and constructive planning were made for the improvement of IBT ministry for the Glory of God.

On 15.01.2017 Governing Council Meeting was held at IBT Office and important resolutions were resolved.

On 26.01.2017 One day Camp was conducted in the CSI Christ Church, Trichy Road, Coimbatore. More people attended in the above camp and received God's Blessings abundantly.

Please pray for Bro.Samuel the translators of Bible in Irula Velliangadu his family and the villagers at Vattalakki for their protection from the menace of Elephant.

Pray that our ministry in North India should be improved and Bible should be translated in all the Bible-less languages and the same be distributed to all people of India.

Pray that the translation of whole Bible in Baduga, Sourashtra, Chattishgargh and Bojpuri should be completed and released at an early date. New Testament in Thoda and Sampalpuri languages should be dedicated and released on 2nd June 2017, being day of anniversary of Rev.Prof.S.Panneer Selvam, IBT Founder.

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