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SATHTHIYA VAARTHAI

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

WORD OF TRUTH -
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LION AND THE LAMB WILL LIVE TOGETHER - VISION OF GOD'S KINGDOM

Throughout history we have seen many kings who went to war. The primary reasons for war are hatred, enmity, prejudice, animosity etc. Enmity and hatred are the 'driver' for any type of conflict. People go to war with others who don't look like them, who don't talk like them, whose culture is different from theirs, whose belief system is different from other's belief system. There are many ways for differences to arise. Jealousy and envy are also a reason to go to war. Think of India and Pakistan. After independence we have fought 4 major wars and had multiple skirmishes across the border. There is an intense hatred and animosity towards each other. Wars can also be for economic and political reasons to improve their economic and military might. People have appreciated

bravado, strength, showy weaponry, but weakness and defeat have always been looked down upon.

In the third century BC a great king named Ashoka ruled over most of India. He was one of the great kings of the Maurya dynasty. Ashoka wanted to conquer Kalinga (modern day Odisha and parts of Andhra Pradesh). It was an independent and prosperous country. That battle was fought fiercely between Ashoka's Mauryan army and Kalinga's army. About 100,000 men died and countless injured in the war. The groaning of the injured soldiers and the crying of widows and children who were left fatherless melted Ashoka's heart. That grotesque scene filled his heart with remorse

and he decided never to fight a battle again. He became a Buddhist and vowed never to take a human life. After he saw the consequences of brutal warfare. He decided that it was not worth it. He wanted peace in the land, where all people can coexist and be prosperous. This was a very powerful example for all kings particularly in India.

This same philosophy can also be applied to today's particularly tumultuous times. We wonder as Christians what should our response be to hatred, enmity and war. Should we fight our enemies to show off our strength? Should we enjoy war as a symbol of bravado? Should we consider war as a fight between Christians and other religious groups? Should we be joyous when our enemies get crushed in war? When we approach these spiritually defining questions, we look to the scriptures for guidance on what our response should be to hatred, enmity and war. What do we learn from scriptures about hatred and enmity? Prophet Isaiah lived in the 7th century BC. He had a vision of the kingdom of God in which he saw peace in the land. In many chapters he wrote about his longing for a peaceful coexistence. That seemingly utopian state was the vision of the kingdom of God presented by prophet Isaiah in chapter 11:1- 8 *"1 The royal line of David is like a tree that has been cut down; but just as new branches sprout from a stump, so a new king will arise from among David's descendants. 2 The Spirit of the Lord will give him wisdom and the knowledge and skill to rule his people. He will know the Lord's will and honor him, 3 and find pleasure in obeying*

him. He will not judge by appearance or hearsay; 4 He will judge the poor fairly and defend the rights of the helpless. At his command the people will be punished and evil persons will die. 5 He will rule his people with justice and integrity. 6 Wolves and sheep will live together in peace, and leopards will lie down with young goats. Calves and lion cubs will feed together, and little children will take care of them. 7 Cows and bears will eat together, and their calves and cubs will lie down in peace. Lions will eat straw as cattle do. 8 Even a baby will not be harmed if it plays near a poisonous snake. 9 On Zion, God's sacred hill, there will be nothing harmful or evil."

At first when we read this passage, we wonder whether this is practical in today's world. Our rational thinking would ask us, "Will a wolf and a sheep live together? Most likely that is not going to happen. Will a lion and lamb feed together? Probably that is not going to happen. Will a little child play with a poisonous snake? Maybe that is not a good idea. Then what is prophet Isaiah telling us through this passage? Is he an impractical person? Was he just a dreamer, dreaming things that are not practical and possible in life? What is prophet Isaiah trying to convey to us through this passage? Is it relevant today?

Ofcourse it is very relevant today. Prophet Isaiah is giving us divine hope that a ruler would come as a descendant of King David. He would rule with justice and fairness. That promised ruler would love to follow God's commandments. Isaiah also foretold that the promised ruler would love to

help poor and helpless people. And he gives us this beautiful vision of lion and the lamb living together. That is a very glorious scene where we don't see any violence in the world. There will not be any hatred, enmity and war, but only peace in the land. No one will have enemies and all will peacefully coexist in this beautiful God given planet Earth. What a beautiful vision that is!

This passage has amazed me over the years. How did prophet Isaiah write this passage in the 7th century BC? Did he write this passage with his own knowledge? Of course, he was a very knowledgeable person, we can see that from his writings. But without inspiration from the Almighty he could not have written such beautiful verses; these verses transcend the passage of time. Without God's divine vision and Isaiah's constant communion with God, he could not have written such beautiful passages by just human wisdom. These verses that prophet Isaiah wrote were truly inspired by God. Thus God has given us a vision of the heavenly kingdom filled with peace and love. That is the hope we have.

Now who is this person that prophet Isaiah talked about? What kind of person is he? Prophet Isaiah himself wrote about the coming ruler and Messiah. Isaiah Chapter 9 : 2-7 *"2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. They lived in a land of shadows, but now light is shining on them. 3 You have given them great joy, Lord; you have made them happy. They rejoice in what you have done, as people rejoice when they harvest grain or when they*

divide captured wealth. 4 For you have broken the yoke that burdened them and the rod that beat their shoulders. You have defeated the nation that oppressed and exploited your people, just as you defeated the army of Midian long ago. 5 The boots of the invading army and all their bloodstained clothing will be destroyed by fire. 6 A child is born to us! A son is given to us! And he will be our ruler. He will be called, "Wonderful Counselor," "Mighty God," "Eternal Father," "Prince of Peace." 7 His royal power will continue to grow; his kingdom will always be at peace. He will rule as King David's successor, basing his power on right and justice, from now until the end of time. The Lord Almighty is determined to do all this."

Prophet Isaiah foretold that the promised ruler would bring peace and he would be called a wonderful counselor, mighty God and eternal Father. The promised ruler would destroy all the armaments used in war and He would be called Prince of Peace. In this passage prophet Isaiah depicts a God that is very compassionate. Here the Lord says that people who have hatred, live in darkness. They do not know the truth. He compares them to ignorant people, and if you think about any fight in which we were involved, after a few months or years we might think that we acted foolishly or rather ignorantly. The anger that we showed would not have been necessary, we did not understand the wisdom of keeping calm in such circumstances. We think over and over again about how to hurt people. When we act like that, our good Lord sees that we behave with ignorance. But he always loved peace, such

is his compassion. When prophet Isaiah said that light would shine in the darkness, he meant that people who were ignorant would come to know the truth. They would rejoice that the days of anger, hatred, animosity and war would end and that there would be peace. This is what prophet Isaiah prophesized, that a Messiah called "Prince of Peace" will come and deliver us.

The promised Messiah came in the 1st century AD Jesus Christ was born to Mary and Joseph (legal father) in a manger. In His sermon on the mount, Jesus said in Matthew Ch 5:9 *"Happy are those who work for peace; God will call them His children!"* Christ talked about revenge in verses 38-39 "38 You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.' 39 But now I tell you: do not take revenge on someone who wrongs you. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, let him slap on your left cheek too." Christ talked about love for enemies in the sermon on the mount in verses 43-48 43 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your friends, hate your enemies.' 44 *But now I tell you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,* 45 *so that you may become the children of your Father in heaven.* For he makes his sun to shine on bad and good people alike, and gives rain to those who do good and to those who do evil. 46 Why should God reward you if you love only the people who love you? Even the tax collectors do that! 47 And if you speak only to your friends, have you done anything out of the ordinary? Even the pagans do that! 48 You must be perfect-just as your Father in heaven is perfect." The Messiah came and

He talked about peace and reconciliation. He asked us to love all and even our enemies. He taught us to peacefully live with everyone and be a good ambassador for His cause in our lives.

How can we be an instrument of peace in this world? How can we be an agent of change and bring reconciliation between warring parties? How can we show grace and be magnanimous in our lives on earth? There are some great examples in history from which we can learn how to follow Christ and be an agent of peace in our lives. To bring peace, first we learn to weed out hatred in ourselves by forgiving our enemies. Then we show our magnanimous behavior by showering our enemies with love and grace, which brings beautiful reconciliation. We journey together by studying this passage from prophet Isaiah to bring peace. They are weeding out hatred, forgiving enemies, showing love and grace, being magnanimous and bringing reconciliation.

- 1) Weeding out hatred
- 2) Forgiving enemies
- 3) Love for enemies and showing grace, reconciliation and magnanimity.

Weeding out hatred:

To be an agent of peace in this world, first we have to expulse all kinds of hatred in our hearts. Hatred begins with prejudice and when it fully blossoms it transforms into extreme hatred. We should not allow a cancerous hatred to grow in our hearts. With

a cancer like hatred in our hearts there can be no room for peace and love in our hearts. Prophet Isaiah has mentioned that in the heavenly kingdom, lion and the lamb will live together. How can a lion and a lamb live together? How is it possible? If the lion is always thinking of devouring the lamb and the lamb is always afraid of the lion, can they live together? It is very unlikely that they can live together.

There is hatred within the family, there is hatred among friends, there is hatred at workplace, there is hatred in the community and there is hatred in the country. If there is hatred, how can people show love and how can they coexist? It is impossible to do that. Even as a practical matter, it is good to remove hatred, so that there can be peace at home, among friends, within the community and within the country; only then can people live together in harmony.

A year before the British left India, there was widespread violence in Noakhali in Bengal. Muslims were massacring Hindus in large numbers, a massive number of women were raped and their property was plundered. The reciprocal was happening in Bihar where Hindus were in majority; there it was Muslims that got killed in large numbers. Both groups were filled with hatred, and vengeance. Gandhiji walked on foot in those villages to bring love and peace between the Hindus and the Muslims. He asked the majority community to love their brothers and the minority community to have the courage to live peacefully. It was a very difficult task. Gandhiji also went on a fast unto death.

That had a great effect on the community. After independence, peace came to Calcutta; however some in the majority community were angry with Gandhiji. They criticized him of appeasing the Muslims. However, Gandhiji always gave the message of love for each other. He appreciated Christ's teaching from the Sermon on the Mount, particularly this particular passage from Matthew 5:38-44. Even while addressing huge rallies Gandhiji would speak in Hindustani (mix of Hindi and Urdu). He did not want India to get independence from Britain just for the sake of it. He wanted to prepare the people of India to live peacefully with each other. He wanted people of different religions to mutually respect their faith and have love and respect for each other.

So often we would cling to pride rather than embrace mercy, and would rather be ready to die than forgive our enemies. We wrestle with the goodness of God that demands that we show God's grace to our enemies. As Christians we are called upon to weed out hatred from our hearts and love our fellow brothers and peacefully coexist with all.

Forgiving enemies:

Tamil poet Thiruvalluvar wrote a poem "Theeyinaalsutta pun aarume araathe naavinaal sutta vadu" which means "The wound of fire would heal, with passing time but the wounds caused by words will never". This is a very expressive saying. Even in our personal life and in testimonies that we read, we find that it is very difficult to remember some physical wounds that we got

many years ago in a playground. However we remember even granular details of the hurt that someone inflicted on us many years ago.

Prophet Isaiah addressed this in the 7th century BC by giving us the vision of lion and the lamb living together. Imagine a scenario in which we coexist with a sworn enemy. It is difficult even to imagine such a scenario. If we constantly think about the hurt that our enemy inflicted on us, how can we coexist happily with that sworn enemy? We cannot continue to live like that. We will never have peace of mind.

According to the old world order, if someone hurts a person it is right to pay it back - tit for tat. It is called 'an eye for an eye' world order. Christ Jesus in his Sermon on the Mount said that it is not good to take revenge on those who hurt us. He exhorted us to show the other cheek if someone hits us on one cheek. St. Paul told us to run a good race and not to look back, because bitter memories of the past can pull us down. He told us not to delve into the hurt and get lost in all the hurtful incidences that happened many years ago. Delving into the past will not bring peace, it will only build up anger and hatred in us. This will cause all kinds of physical diseases like blood pressure and heart diseases apart from mental stress leading to emotional toll. It will create a situation which is literally like hell for us. This is why St. Paul advises us not to look back, but to forget and forgive the past and move forward (Phil 4:3,14) Jesus told us in the Sermon on the Mount that we should forgive those who hurt us and we should be able to

accept them as friends and neighbors. He told us repeatedly to forgive those who hurt us by saying that we should forgive seven times seventy anyone who hurts us. Forgiving the people who hurt us will bring peace in us. This peace which we find in Christ is astronomical. That is why St. Paul writes that this peace which Christ gives passes all understanding.

In today's life what kind of enemies do we have? They may be the people who don't look like us. They may belong to another caste, whom we think of as lowly people. We may not understand their culture, or we may not understand their attitude towards matters. Because of these differences of opinion we develop a prejudice and hatred towards our brothers and sisters in faith. The same thing applies to people of other faith also. We might think that we are superior to the people of other faith. In other instances we develop an "us versus them" attitude towards people of other faith. These differences develop an extreme prejudice and hatred towards people of other faith. Sometimes our own people can be our enemies for whatever reason.

Prophet Isaiah exhorts us to live peacefully with our enemies. How can we live peacefully with people who don't look like us? We have to accept the differences of opinion, culture, caste, religion etc. We also have to respect them for who they are. That is the only way we will be able to coexist with them. Christ exhorts us to that higher calling. Isaiah also said that the Messiah who will make this happen is also a Prince of Peace.

The United States of America fought a bloody civil war between 1861 and 1865. The country was divided into two countries, one was the USA and the other was the Confederate States of America. Northern states were part of USA and the southern states were part of Confederate States of America. Both had separate presidents, army and government. The reason for the war was the issue of slavery and a single state. North fought the war to unite the country and to free the slaves. During the war more than 600,000 people died. Northern people hated their southern counterparts bitterly and the sentiment was similar in the south. Finally, after more than four years, USA won the war. After the war was over President Abraham Lincoln wanted to forgive the southern army soldiers, general and government officials. He wanted to unite everyone by bringing peace and reconciliation between the north and the south. For that move he was regarded as one of the best Presidents. President Lincoln was personally a very devout Christian. His Christian convictions controlled his actions and policies as President. He hated war all along, but found it is a just cause to unite the country and free the black slaves. As a Christian he was really moved to bring peace in the land after a very bitter and bloody war.

Love for enemies and showing grace, reconciliation, magnanimity:

Prophet Isaiah paints a picture of a very perfect world. That is the vision he saw 700 years before Christ. Was he just a dreamer? Do you think a lion and a lamb will ever live together? Do you think India and Pakistan

will live peacefully like brothers and sisters? Do you think we can share our secrets with our enemies who try to bring us down? Do you think we can trust a person who wishes the worst for us? Do you think we can love and live with our enemies like brothers and sisters? Is it even possible?

We like to socialize with people who look like us, don't we? We like to be friends with people who have the same faith, who are from the same region, who belong to the same caste, don't we? We don't even like to sit down with people who don't look like us and who don't have belief systems as we have. Even though we believe in Christ, go to church, pray every day, give money to the poor, we have our own comfort zones. We are very comfortable in loving our friends. But it is difficult for us to have communion with people who don't look like us, who don't talk like us, who don't have the same culture like us, who come from a different sect or caste. Why is it like that? That is basic human nature. Wherever human beings started a civilization, from time immemorial, human beings have flocked to people who looked like them and talked like them. This is not necessarily evil. But it is common and ordinary human behavior.

That is exactly what Christ taught us in Matthew 5:47. That if we speak to only our friends have we done anything out of the ordinary? Definitely not. Everyone does that, even criminals do that. Christ calls us to be extraordinary by loving our enemies. Christ's teaching from the Sermon on the Mount is recorded in Matthew 5:43 - 48. 43 *"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your*

friends, hate your enemies.' 44 *But now I tell you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,* 45 *so that you may become the children of your Father in heaven.* For he makes his sun to shine on bad and good people alike, and gives rain to those who do good and to those who do evil. 46 Why should God reward you if you love only the people who love you? Even the tax collectors do that! 47 And if you speak only to your friends, have you done anything out of the ordinary? Even the pagans do that! 48 You must be perfect-just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

There are a lot of ordinary Christians who follow Christ, but Christ calls us to live a life by loving our enemies. He wants us to be extraordinary Christians. Is it easy to love our enemies? Of course not. It is very difficult to love our enemies. It is not easy to trust them. Then how do we love our enemies? The first step in loving our enemies is to let go our ego. This will allow us to approach them to make peace with them. Even if it is not our fault, if we let our ego go and approach our enemies, we show great humility. We show a lot of grace in approaching our enemies. Is that not what our Lord taught us to do? - Is that not within the capacity of our Christian conviction to do so? When we go and meet our enemy and tell him or her to forget and forgive the past and move forward, we show grace and magnanimity. Christ loves this scene. He will enable us to make peace with our enemies. Even though we are weak, He gives us strength to overcome fear and prejudice to do that ultimate act of approaching and talking to our enemy. This

blessed re-union will bring peace and reconciliation. That would bring immense joy in our hearts. That is what Christ expects us to do. If we do that, we are instruments of His peace. Thus we make the vision of lion and the lamb living together real by forgiving our enemies and loving them. We make the vision of the perfect world possible.

When the prodigal son returned to his father's home, from his sinful past his elder brother did not have the grace and magnanimity to receive him. Instead he was upset about the attention given to his sinful brother. Christ mentioned that the kingdom of God is also like that.

But there are extraordinary Christians who do go above and beyond the normal behavior by bringing the vision of lion and the lamb living together.

During the First World War, allied forces led by Great Britain were fighting the German forces in France. It was a 500 mile long front. By then almost one million(10 lakhs) people had already died in the war. During Christmas time, it was cold and life in the trenches was very hard for the allied forces. On Christmas Eve, some allied soldiers saw some light in the distance; they thought it was a German trap to kill the allied soldiers. Soon they heard singing and the light the German soldiers had lit was a Christmas tree. German soldiers were singing "Stille Nacht" which is "Silent Night" in English. After they had finished, the allied soldiers started singing Silent Night in English. Soon with trepidation, both the allied soldiers and German soldiers trudged through the mud

littered with several corpses to greet each other. When they met, they hugged and kissed each other and wished them "Merry Christmas". They exchanged gifts of cigars, whiskey, beer, canned meat. They also talked to each other about their families and how bad war was.

It made the soldiers to vent out their frustrations about the war and cry when they hugged their enemies. Such is the power of peace and reconciliation.

Concluding Thoughts:

To conclude, what have we learnt from Isaiah's writing that lion and lamb shall live together? God has created this beautiful planet earth and all its inhabitants. People living in different parts of this world look different and talk differently. They are divided by race, language, culture, religion, caste, social status, etc. It is natural for people who look alike to flock together and have communion. But those differences which prevent people from mingling with one another cause problems. Sometimes these divisions cause prejudice and when there is intense prejudice it leads to extreme hatred and animosity. This leads to all kinds of fighting and ugliness in this world.

So what did we learn from this passage that we can apply to our daily lives? How can we be different from the rest? How can we be extraordinary Christians as Christ has exhorted us to live?

Should we as Christians think that our religion is superior to other religions? Should we as Christians think that we are more holy

when compared to the people of other faith? Should we as Christians think that we should mingle only with Christians and not with people of other faith? Should we as Indian Christians mingle with only people of our own caste? Should we as Christians think that God will punish people of other faith?

People feel comfortable with their own identity. That is very natural for human beings, but how do we overcome the differences and coexist peacefully with people who are different from us? We have learnt from this passage that to overcome various differences, we have to weed out prejudice and hatred and love our enemies. We ought to bring peace and reconciliation with people whom we do not like and with people who don't look like us. God would like all people to live in peace and harmony. That is the vision He gave prophet Isaiah. When we mingle with everyone and live in peace and harmony with others, it gives immense joy and pleasure in ourselves. It is that peace that passes all understanding. It is that peace that is not comprehensible to everyone but only to those God has revealed it.

It is that peace which prophet Isaiah talked about in chapter 11. The kingdom of God as revealed to us by prophet Isaiah is a place of peace, where there are no enemies. There is no place for anger, enmity, and revenge. The Kingdom of God is a place of peace and the Prince of Peace is our Savior. We worship Him and follow Him. Christ calls us to be ambassadors of peace in our life on earth. That is the calling of our times. Amen.

- Dr. John Arul Gunaraj

NEWS LETTER

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We convey our gratitude to you all who are upholding the ministries of Indian Bible Translators by your prayer, offerings and active cooperation. The Lord is carrying out our ministries with blessings. Though there have been many hurdles in our ministries, God has been safe guarding all our efforts. Let us give glory and honour to Him.

The 4th memorial anniversary prayer meeting was conducted in IBT Training Centre on 2nd July 2017 in memory of IBT founder Thiru S. Panneer Selvam's. On that day the New Testament in Toda language spoken by the tribal people in Nilgiris hills was released. Let us thank God for this effort which underwent many hardships before final release. We will get copies of these New Testament soon and we will distribute them to the people speaking Toda language. This book was translated by Sister Poongili and Brother Sri Raj. It is difficult to pronounce the words in this language. So this book has to be read to the people followed by explanation about our Lord. Please pray for this to be fruitful. We thank Sister Annie who helped us to print this New Testament.

Apart from the release of the New Testament in Toda language, the English translation of the Tamil book entitled 'Veedakama Puththagangalukku Oor Arimugam'

written by Thiru S. Panneer Selavam was also released. This English version entitled 'Introduction to the Books of the Bible' was translated by Sister Uma Mohanraj. We thank the Lord who by His grace enabled us to release this English book. We have published the details of this occasion in the magazine of this month.

IBT Tailoring Centre is functioning at Ooty Rohini. There social services of Tailoring training, Computer training and Knitting training are being conducted. On 20th May this year certificates were awarded to the trainees who had successfully completed their training and on that occasion many entertaining events were staged by the trainees. These include songs, Bible reading, information about IBT ministries, dances etc , all performed very well. All of the ladies were Hindus and Muslims. In all 52 women received the certificates. We have highlighted about this celebration in this issue.

In the month of May the final checking of the translated portions of the New Testament in Sambalpuri language was done by B.S.I. staying in IBT head office for a week. Please pray for the early printing of this portion of the Bible. Bro Ravi shared God's message and introduced IBT ministries on 14th and 21st May at CSI branch church in Madalipatti and CSI branch church in Okoilpatti respectively during Sunday worship services. On 28th May IBT God's servant Bro Paul Jesudasan gave God's message in CSI Popli church in Orampatti, Erode and Bro Ravi, our Erode representative,

introduced IBT ministries. Bro Inbaraj, Bro Rajadurai and others sang songs. Bro Rajadurai thanked the gathering and prayed the final prayer. We thank church pastor Rev Prabhudas for giving us this opportunity.

In this magazine we have given the books released and the social service done all these 4 years since the demise of Bro S. Panneer Selvam. Preparations are on hand for the release of gospel books, whole New Testament, the books of Psalms and Proverbs in many more North Indian languages. Bro Nallasamy and Bro Samuel Gnanadas left for Karnataka State

on 3rd June for buying a land for constructing a church building in Karnataka State and also for inspecting the on going translation work and missionary work carried out in that State mission fields. Please continue to pray for all the IBT ministries. We too continue to pray for your family, your children's education, jobs, marriage and health. May the Lord bless all of us.

In the service of Christ,

Your sister

Mrs. Sudandiradevi Panneer Selvam

BOOKS RELEASED AFTER THE DEMISE OF Rev. Prof. S. PANNER SELVAM

| State | Languages | Name of Books | Released Dates |
|------------|------------|--|----------------|
| Tamil Nadu | Baduga | Proverb | 02-06-2014 |
| Tamil Nadu | Sourashtra | Psalms | 02-06-2014 |
| Rajasthan | Hadothy | Mathew Gospel | 01-03-2015 |
| Rajasthan | Thunthani | Mathew Gospel | 01-03-2015 |
| Rajasthan | Mewary | Mathew Gospel | 01-03-2015 |
| Rajasthan | Dingal | Mathew, Mark Gospels | 01-03-2015 |
| Karnataka | Bovi | Mark Gospel | 02-06-2015 |
| Karnataka | Siddik | Mark Gospel | 02-06-2015 |
| Karnataka | Lambani | Mark Gospel | 02-06-2015 |
| Tamil Nadu | Irula (V) | Mark Gospel | 02-06-2015 |
| Tamil Nadu | Irula (K) | Luke Gospel | 02-06-2015 |
| Rajasthan | Vagri | Mathew, Mark, Luke and John Gospel Books | 24-08-2015 |

| State | Languages | Name of Books | Released Dates |
|----------------|-----------|--|----------------|
| Tamil Nadu | Malayalam | Word of Life (in Malayalam Language) | 26-01-2016 |
| Tamil Nadu | Paniya | New Testament | 02-06-2016 |
| Karnataka | Vagri | Mathew Gospel | 02-06-2016 |
| Chhattisgarh | Halbi | Mathew, John Gospels | 02-06-2016 |
| Chhattisgarh | Kuduk | Mathew, John Gospels | 02-06-2016 |
| Madhya Pradesh | Bageli | Mathew, John Gospels | 02-06-2016 |
| Karnataka | Erava | Luke Gospel | 26-01-2017 |
| Tamil Nadu | Tamil | Paarukkul Paralagam (Literature) | 26-01-2017 |
| Tamil Nadu | Toda | New Testament | 02-06-2017 |
| Tamil Nadu | English | Introduction to the books of The Bible | 02-06-2017 |

BAPTIZED PEOPLES :

Pindra mission station in Utterpradesh - 38, Bilaspur mission station in Chhattisgarh - 1, Attigan mission station in Odisha - 5, santhoshpur mission station in Odisha - 1, Ponduguda mission station in Odisha - 12, Kondapuri mission station in Odisha - 3, H.D. Kote mission station in Karnataka State - 3, Ranibennur mission station in Karnataka - 3, Jugfalls mission station in Karnataka - 8. Total = 74 Persons.

THE PLACES WHERE CHURCHES WERE CONSTRUCTED :

In 2015 at Podergan mission station and in 2016 at Kondapuri mission station in Odisha State.

BOREWEL DUG IN RECENT YEARS :

During 2015, in Mali Attigan, Kondapuri mission station and Bappanpalli Children Home in Odisha State.

APPEAL

As all know, with your contribution, IBT is financially supporting our missionaries' children for their education every year. Now for the academic year of 2017-2018 the schools and colleges were reopened in June 2017 and we need Rs. 3,00,000/- for their education support.

We therefore, prayerfully request all the sponsors subscribers of Saththiya Vaarthai Megazine and those who have burden for the ministry to generously extent their help for the education of this missionaries' children.

- Treasurer

**Important Events held in IBT Ministry
Release of New Testament in Toda Language**



The dedication prayer of Toda language New Testament on Rev. Prof. S. Panner Selvam's Anniversary day on 2nd June 2017.



Rev. S.C. Jeyakumar distributes 1st Copy of The New Testament in Toda language.



Mrs. D. Sudandiradevi gives the 2nd Copy of The New Testament in Toda Language.



Mr. S. Rajasekaran gives the English book "Introduction of the books of the Bible"



Bro. M. John William inspects the Computer Training Centre in Ooty Rohini.



The Students those who have completed Tailoring and Computer Training with Certificates

The release of the New Testament in Toda language on the 4th Memorial Anniversary Meeting in Memory of Rev. Prof. S. PANNEER SELVAM, Founder of IBT

On 2.6.2017 at 5.30 pm the 4th memorial anniversary meeting in memory of Rev Prof S. Panneer Selvam was conducted at IBT Centre, Coimbatore. After the prayer by Bro Rajan the function was started with worship songs. Bro Christopher functioned as compere and highlighted the various events. The function proper was started with prayer by Pastor Stanley. Then Sister Navamani Sekar read the Bible portion.

Then Bro S. Timothy, IBT President, welcomed the gathering. After this Bro Samuel Gnanadas spoke about the functioning of various IBT ministries. During his speech he said about the Karl Marx' principle of communism and about the degradation in the society which is mainly because of not proclaiming the gospel. A family which received the gospel book of Luke released by IBT declared that they accepted Jesus Christ knowing Him as the Saviour. Then he spoke about the release and distribution of 9 New Testament books, the book of Psalms and the book of Proverbs in 2 languages and 64 gospel books in 34 languages by IBT. When he spoke about missionary ministry and social services, he stressed the importance of Bible translation. He also pleaded that many more persons should take effort to join this venture.

After this Bro Immanuel sang a song beautifully both in Tamil and English depicting

the spectacular life of IBT founder Rev Prof S. Panneer Selvam. The title of the song was 'Ponnagar Inbaththai Petrudivom' in Tamil and 'The World after Gold' in English.

This speech was followed by the speech of Thiru Rajasekaran, former Headmaster of Manis Higher Secondary School, Coimbatore. He highlighted the foundation of IBT by Rev Prof S. Panneer Selvam who realized the purpose of his call for doing ministry as found in the books of Ephesians and 2 Thessalonians. He fulfilled his god given plans just like the spirit filled work done by God's servants such as Abraham and Moses who completed the plans God gave them. God continues to help IBT to carry out the ministries given to Bro Panneer Selvam even after his demise. He fulfilled the purpose of his ministry till the last breath of his life with the same enthusiasm with which he started his ministries. He did not allow any slackness or deviation in his ministries. But we know that in course of time some ministries have forgotten the very purposes with which they were started and deviated in their direction. Romans 12:1 says, "Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically." Therefore it is imperative that all of us who are engaged in IBT ministries should be guided by the spirit that was in Bro Panneer Selvam. Bro. Rajasekaran concluded his speech stressing that just like Bro Panneer Selvam we too must

partake in IBT ministries exactly as per the Scripture.

After the above speech Bro. D. Ravi, IBT representative in Erode, spoke about his association with Rev. Prof S. Panneer Selvam whom he met for the first time during the Planning meeting held at Kutralam. He recalled the Brother's words "The Lord had brought you here with a purpose." He added that he once went to Odisha State with the Brother, where he learnt through some incidents how simple the Brother was in his dealings. He recalled the Brother's words about how one can do any ministry voluntarily and how the grace of the Lord can accomplice great things in the ministry. He concluded his speak stating that just as the Brother had said that day in Odisha, IBT ministry is growing steadily in Erode area.

Then Bro Christopher said that Bro Panneer Selvam's message along with many illustrations on 'Don't be afraid' during the Logos camp in Salem 4 years ago was really fruitful to all those who attended the camp. Bro Christopher asked the participants not to be afraid of anything just as the Brother was fearless under all circumstances even just before his death. This speech was followed by a song.

Next Mrs Uma Mohanraj while talking about the book entitled 'Introduction to the Books of the Bible' (the translated version of the Tamil book written by Bro Panneer Selvam) asserted that while she could not understand the Bible books fully earlier even after several readings, she could understand them with great clarity after going through the book in Tamil entitled 'Veedagama Puththagangalukku Oor

Arimugam'. Thereafter she gave that book to many persons so that they too may be benefited. Then according to the guidance of the Holy Spirit Sister Sudandiradevi Panneer Selvam asked her to translate that Tamil book into English which she did by God's guidance. Subsequently she has translated the second Tamil book entitled 'Sorvum Theervum' written by Bro. Panneer Selvam. She recalled how Bro Panneer Selvam met her at her house for the first time and spoke consoling words when she had just returned from Chennai after staying there for 1 year facing a difficult situation. His words have been ingrained in her heart and are still ringing in her ears.

The release of the New Testament in Toda language.

All the God's servants stretched their hands towards the New Testament books in Toda language and prayed. Pastor Stanley dedicated the books and then Rev Jayakumar, a CSI church pastor, released the books and Sis. Poongili and Bro. Siriraj received the first copy. The second copy of the book was released by Thirumathi Sudandiradevi Panneer Selvam and Pastor Stanly received it. The book 'Introduction to the Books of the Bible' was released by Mrs. Uma Mohanraj and IBT Senior Bro. John William received the first copy of the book. The second copy of the book was released by Bro. S. Rajasekaran and Bro. M. Chandran received it.

Then Sis Poongili Siriraj read the portion John 1: 1 - 10 in Toda language. After this both she and Bro Siriraj sang songs.

After this Bro Siriraj and Sister Poongili were honoured by 'Ponnadai' by senior R. John William and sister Navamani respectively.

Thereafter Sis Anuradha Chandran spoke about her participation in the release of the New Testament in Baduga language in 1997, the difficulties she faced in distributing them, the good results on the distribution of the New Testament after she joined IBT, the distribution of the books of Psalms and Proverbs translated into Baduga language and also about how these books are fruitfully used in the churches. Sister Elizabeth spoke about the distribution of the New Testament in Pania language and about the benefit reaped by some of those who received those books. Subsequently, Bro Chandran, Sister Anuradha and their children sang a song in Baduga language which was enjoyed by all.

Before Pastor Rev Jayakumar started his God's message with a prayer, he said that it will not be an exaggeration if we call Bro Panneer Selvam a William Carey for Tamilnadu. Death is inevitable. Though 4 years have elapsed since his demise, every vacant space in his ministry is filled by the presence of God. Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints. Bro Panneer Selvam lived by his sayings "Life is God, Life is with God." and "Expect great things from God, Attempt great things for God." The pastor spoke words pregnant with deep meaning such as: There is a time for birth and there is a time for death. If a person is born twice, he sees death only once. Jesus Christ came to the world to abolish spiritual death. Therefore there should be only one death-the natural death of the body. Then he compared the deaths of Lazarus and the rich man as found in Luke 16: 19 - 31. He

quoted D.L.Moody who said if a person is born only once, he tastes two deaths -physical and spiritual, but if a person is born two times (including spiritual rebirth), he tastes only one death-the physical death, and for God's children death is a glorious experience. The Pastor said that death is resting (from all the world's tribulations), deliverance and an appointed incident. Death is not the end, but a new beginning. With these deep thoughts on death the pastor concluded his message.

In his message the pastor expressed his gratitude for the exemplary life of the Brother. The books written by him are a great contribution to his ministry which testify his goodness and faithfulness. The William Carey of Tamilnadu has contributed to us the principles of William Cary. After his death, his wife Mrs Sudandiradevi took up the headship and is carrying on the IBT ministries very well with the solid help of other members of this organization. There are many things taking place by way of many anti-christian laws against the Christians in Russia, our country and in many other places also. Terrorists are killing many people in foreign countries. Those who act against Christianity just as kicking against thorns will face what they deserve. Jesus Christ has said in John 16:33 "...In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." What we have to do is to pray for the change of heart in the case of those who act against Christianity.

Even in 53 AD Christians had to face trials and tribulations. Emperor Nero threw the Christians into the dens of lions. A Bishop was burnt to death while he was alive because he refused to worship the Roman King and did not

deny Christ. But his body which was tied to a tree, did not burn, instead it shone like brass. History tells that the blood which oozed out of his body when pierced by a dagger extinguished the fire set on his body. We should be prepared to die for the sake of Christ. God's servants like William Carey and David Livingston endured the dreadful persecution. The pastor wound up his message stating that we should pray to the Lord to give us the spiritual strength to endure all the trials aimed at us and also for retaining unwavering faith in Him. May the Lord grant us this grace. At the end Bro Sekar thanked all the special guests and all those who participated in the meeting mentioning their names.

Finally, Rev. Jayakumar said the concluding prayer and gave benediction, expressing his

thanks for the vision of Bro Panneer Selvam, his ministry of Bible translation, his life of faith and also for ever widening IBT organization. He wished that like the Brother all should experience death as a victory and all who have been engaged in continuing the Brother's varied ministries such as supporters, translators, representatives, missionaries and those who read his original and translated books should live in the Lord and prepare themselves for eternal life. Dinner was served to all the participants. All left the meeting with an increased burden for IBT ministry and with a cheerful heart.

- **Bro. George William**

FIELD NEWS

Translator : Bro S.N. Sankar
Mission field : Trichy (Tamilnadu)
Language : Sourashtra

Last month the Lord helped me to do my ministry truthfully and joyously. Last month the following OT portions were checked and key-in work also was done : Numbers chapters 10 to 36 and Deuteronomy chapters 1 to 13. During translation first word by word is checked and then compared with English translation. Words like tribal families, people belonging to and children created confusion during translation, some words having the same meaning were introduced and checked. Long sentences were split into smaller sentences and complicated

phrases were replaced by proper words as found in NLV, NLT, ESV and Good News Bible. For example, the verse 13:32 in Numbers is somewhat difficult to translate. Its deep meaning is "We cannot cultivate anything in this soil." Like this in each book when the introduction and beginning vary translation has to be done keeping the central meaning into account. Please pray for my translation ministry and for my family.

————— • —————
Translator : Bro. Samuel
Mission field : Vattalakki (Kerala)
Language : Velliangaadu Irula

Greetings in the name of Lord Jesus Christ. By the abundant grace of the Lord last month key -in work was done in the computer for the translated books of Ezekiel and Daniel. Now these books have to be checked for meaning and necessary correction has to be done.

We went to Arakkadu for missionary work. It is 5 km away and elephants are trespassing through these dense forest area. We met the tribal people and distributed hand bills and Luke Gospel in Irula language. They happily received them. There are 60 families are living in this village. These people should also accept Jesus and should get salvation. They should release from the Idol worship bonded life. Pray for this tribal people and for my translation ministry.

————— • —————
Translator/Missionary : Bro Paramesh
Mission field : Hirakud (Odisha state)
Language : Sambalpuri

Greetings in the name of Lord Jesus Christ. Apart from translating the Bible in Sambalpuri language, I am also doing missionary work. The completed New Testament in this language has been given to IBT head office and to BSI Bangalore also. This will come out in the book form shortly. Please pray for this. The people speaking Sambalpuri language are keen on receiving the New Testament. They are highly elated about reading the Word of God in their own mother tongue and be benefited. I am conducted Sunday worship service in the 4

villages : Jankat, Jarsuguda, Vachvunda and Amsada. Please pray for these people to grow in the Lord, for my ministries and for my family.

————— • —————
Translator : Bro Asaria Madhuri
Mission field : Podia (Odisha State)
Language : Koya

May the name of the Lord be glorified. Last month the Lord enabled me to translate the gospel book of Luke chapters 2:1 to 8:52. As for my missionary ministry I visited the following villages and shared the Good News with the villagers: Pallaguda, Koththaguda, Mottuguda, Shanthinagar, Pasaguda, Muchchiguda, Bamgetta, Kunjampalli, Gummariguda, Chodiguda and Kumanisaki. A lady named N. Vijayamunna living in Shanthinagar has been continuously suffering from acute pain in the head and vomiting. There was no cure even after spending much money on medication. When I was going by cycle for ministry to this village some people told me about this sister and asked me to go to her house. I met her and told her about Jesus Christ who can heal any sickness and prayed for her and told her to belief in her heart that Jesus Christ will heal her completely. I praised God when I came to know that she had been completely healed. Please pray for that family to grow in the Lord and for my translation and missionary ministries.

Missionary : Bro Amarbar Nag
Mission field : Katni (Madhya Pradesh)

By the abundant grace of the Lord last month I could visit the following villages and shared the Good News with the villagers: Amohatta, Banahi, Hervora, Pageli, Bomkoni, Chappan, Gayathrinagar, Gunar, Amothabu, Thempur, Sonihotta, Amokol, Bupera, Jeeki, Jaithura, Balanpur, Thiyoni, Hakkur and Chittabagodi. Some of them heard the gospel with interest. I conducted Sunday worship services, fasting prayer meeting on second Saturday and house prayer meetings. Please pray for my missionary ministry and for my family.

Translator : Bro Christhudan Namrasil
Mission field : Nanganal (Odisha state)
Language : Dhesia

Last month by the grace of the Lord I could do my translation and missionary ministries well. Sunday worship services were conducted at Nanganal and Santhoshpur mission fields and all the church members participated in the worship services. Sister Pushpalatha, Brothers Devados and Thakkaram said conveyed their wish to take baptism. Apart from these people another 6 persons also conveyed their wish to take baptism. I visited 8 villages and shared the Good News with them and explained to them about forgiveness of sins, resurrection and eternal life. Many listened to me with keen interest. I distributed the New Testament books in Dhesia language to 47 persons. House

prayer meeting and second Saturday fasting prayer meeting were conducted. As for my translation work in Dhesia language, I did key-in work for OT book 2 Kings chapters 6:1 to 22:20. Please pray for my translation and missionary ministries and for my family.

Promotional worker :
Bro Paul Jeyasudan
Mission field : Coimbatore

By the abundant grace of the Lord He gave me the grace of doing well both promotional work and office work. The Lord gave me the grace to collect offerings from the supporters of IBT ministries and pray for them. I participated in the one-day family gathering conducted at Perundurai on 15th April and also in the IBT missionary promotional meeting conducted in Gudalur on 23rd April. Bro Christopal gave God's message and I introduced IBT ministries on this occasion. During house visiting I prayed for the aged supporters for the healing of the frequent set backs due to aging. When I met the pastor of CSI church in Ganapathy police quarters area and asked for his permission to conduct an IBT promotional meeting in his church, he willingly consented. On 23rd April an IBT preacher gave God's message in Podanur church. Permission has been obtained for conducting an IBT promotional meeting in the Malayalam CSI church in Gudalur. The Lord gave me the grace of meeting new supporters of IBT ministries and introducing IBT ministries to them.

PRAY & PRAISE

1. Praise the Lord for His abundant grace of releasing the New Testament in Toda language on 2nd June at IBT centre, Coimbatore. Pray for the speedy distribution of all the 1000 copies of this book to the people speaking Toda language and also for the people who will receive these books should read them with interest and grow in the Lord.
2. The senior BSI counsellor Rev Nag in Bangalore has planned to do the final checking of the following translated portions of the Bible: some of the OT books in Bhojpuri, one of the languages spoken in Uttar Pradesh, and in Dhesia, Mirgan, Kalakandia and Podaporja languages spoken in Odisha state; some of the NT books in Kadava, Koya, Saura, Kondaporja and Kuvi languages spoken in Odisha state. Pray for the early completion of the checking work.
3. Praise the Lord for the wish expressed by 10 persons for taking baptism who are attending IBT church in Reva mission field in Madhya Pradesh where Bro. Rammanichakkat is doing his ministry. Please pray that they should not change their minds and they should join the church accepting Jesus Christ.
4. Sister Kalavathi Jebaraj is functioning as a missionary in Bilaspur mission field in Chhattisgarh state. Through her the following persons have expressed their wish to take baptism: Mrs Santhosh, Meena, Maheshwari, Bharathi, Bhagavathi and Papitha. Praise the Lord for this. Please pray that all these persons should grow in the Lord and their family members also should live accepting Jesus Christ.

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