



JULY 2018
Vol. 16, No. 10

SATHTHIYA VAARTHAI

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

WORD OF TRUTH -
PUBLICATION OF INDIAN BIBLE TRANSLATORS

Annual Subscription : Rs. 100/-
Single Copy : Rs. 10/-

PEOPLE WHO REACHED THEIR WIT'S END AND MADE CRIES IN CRISIS

As we travel in our life boat in the ocean of this world, we have to brave through many storm and raging winds, before reaching the shore. As we meet so many dangers and pitfalls, more often than not, many life boats get capsized or drowned. Yes! Many people - 7 out of 1000, commit suicide according to the recent statistics (1995 figure). Why this unnecessary tragedy? Our human life, whoever one may be, is always subject to so many pressures and tensions, both from within and without, and they never stop - like the unceasing sea waves. Anyone who is not well - prepared to face these challenges and ground realities, will get caught up in a whirlwind of problems and end up with tragic consequences. This is true for everyone. Is there anyone in the world who has not met with problems? Everyone has his or her own share of tragedy and trial. Yes! We all, in one stage or the other, will be meeting a crisis in our lives, one time or the other, whether we like it or not. When we are forced to confront

with a crisis all of a sudden, when we reach our wit's end, how do we react? We just throw up our hands and cry out for help. Just as we cannot avoid a bird from flying over our head, so also we cannot avoid problems and crisis hovering over our heads like hawks.

One important principle in human life is that if we cannot avoid something, we must learn to live with it. It would be better, if we try to master it and use it as a necessary pathway to the road of success, which is always under construction. If you can't beat someone, go with him. In fact, these problems and trials in one's life, only make our lives worth living and interesting. I once heard of a man who had no problem whatsoever in his life and so, he went and committed suicide. Mighty winds help the trees take deep roots and make it grow strong. Similarly, our problems can make our life more robust and strong. Can we have

our food always sweet? No! We want our food not only to be sweet but also savour, hot and spicy. If the rainbow has only one colour, it will be dull; because it has many colours it is beautiful. Remember, the rainbow has 'red' colour also - a symbol of danger. So our human life also must be multi-coloured, multi-dimensional with many facets; then only it will be interesting.

As children of God, our life is under the control and guidance of our Almighty God. If we have allowed Jesus at the helm of our affairs and if he is at the steering wheel of our life boat, we need not be afraid of the perils and storms we will be meeting with very often in our lives. There was a ship sailing across the ocean without any problem. But suddenly, there was a big storm tossing the ship to and fro, and there was a big hue and cry among the distressed passengers. But one man slipped out of the pandemonium and stealthily climbed up to the captain's cabin and had a look at the captain. The captain was just smiling and there was not a single trace of distress or fear in the face of the captain. This man came back to the dock and called out all the distressed passengers and announced: 'Look! You need not be afraid. I saw the face of the captain. He was just smiling. Everything will be OK very soon'. So it was. Within a few minutes everything became quiet. Yes! We must follow this man. Whenever we meet a storm in our life, we must climb up our spiritual ladder and look at the face of the captain of our salvation - our Lord Jesus. The Bible says, "**Thou will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee.**" (Isaiah 26:3). Yes! We must learn to focus and fix our mind on Jesus in every situation and at each stage of our life. The theme of

this message is how to meet the crisis in our lives; how to cry out to God for help and assistance as we reach our wit's end. As we read the Word of God, we meet different people who cried out to God in different times of crisis in their lives and got God's help. Certainly, the experiences of these Godly people thousands of years back will provide valuable lessons and guidelines for our lives even today.

1. Samson - at the point of death (Jud. 16:28).
2. The widow of Zarephath at the rock bottom of her supply (I Kings 17).
3. David at Ziklag, facing the greatest crisis in his life (I Sam.30).
4. Jacob at Peniel, Caught up in the horn of dilemma between Laban and Esau (Gen. 32:26).
5. The cry of the penitent thief at the cross (Luke 23:42).

1. Samson

The last moments of Samson provide a classic example of those who were at the wit's end of their lives in the Bible. The life of Samson, as that of Peter in the New Testament, is a bundle of self-contradictions. On the one hand, he was the strongest man in the nation, but on the other hand, he was also the weakest person. Physically he was the strongest, but mentally and spiritually, he was the weakest of the lot. In my city of Coimbatore, there is a company that makes helmet for the scooters. Its name is 'Tufflite' - which means it is very tough but at the same time very light in weight - toughness and lightness fused together. I wonder what nomenclature we can call Samson, a 'strong-

weak' man or a 'mighty-frail' person - a very strange combination indeed! - Strength and weakness interwoven. If Olympic Games were there in his times, he would have won the Olympic Gold Medals in Weightlifting and in Wrestling in as many years as he lived. God has endowed him with enormous physical strength that baffled his enemies and thrilled his countrymen. No doubt, he was acclaimed as a National Hero without asking for it. The paradox is, that one day he stands at the top of a spiritual mountain, but the next day he will be willowing in the miry clay of sin. His life was a strange mixture of victory and defeat, saintliness and sinfulness.

God gave him many talents. Every God-given talent is always attached with a label of responsibility. Samson never bothered to read God's message written in that label. God expected much from him to provide a dynamic leadership and guidance to the people of Israel. But he proved himself to be a heart ache and total disappointment for God. God gave a long rope for Samson but he misused and abused that long rope and as a result, he got himself entangled with that rope. The very talents God gave him, proved to be a death knell for him. This is true for any child of God - the misused talents will be turned into a death trap for many children of God even today.

Samson forgot his responsibility but chose to sleep on the laps of Delilah. He was playing with sin and fire and he paid a very heavy price. He not only lost his power and physical strength after being shorn of his hairs, but also his eyes too. He was subject to abject humiliation by the Philistines. The very hand that slayed 1000 Philistines with the jaw bone of an ass, are now used for grinding to feed the enemies. The

ex-champion of Israel nation has become a buffoon - an object of sports and abject ridicule for the Philistines! What a disgrace! He cannot blame anyone for this great fall of his, except himself. God gave him extraordinary physical strength, but he weakened himself willfully and willingly.

As he was standing stark blind, chained between the two pillars of Philistine's sports stadium, I wonder what kind of thoughts passed through his mind. His mighty hands that brought terror and fear to the Philistines were now bound with chains. Somehow he was able to bear the gruesome and excruciating pain he underwent when the Philistines plucked his eyes. But what he could not tolerate was the fact that his personal defeat and failure was attributed to his God - Jehovah - and the Philistines were ridiculing God Jehovah, as if the Philistine's Gods have defeated his God, Jehovah. This really made his blood boil and fueled his zeal for his Jehovah God to burn bright. Samson was literally standing at the brink of his life. More than anyone else, he knew that the last hour of his meteoric but heroic life has arrived. He was at his wit's end. He has reached the dead-end of his life. Suddenly, like a bolt from the blue and like a splash from the spring of inspiration, a feeling of repentance and remorse descended upon him like the dew on dry grass. Like the Prodigal Son, he came to himself and to his senses. It was a divine-directed important moment that has become a part of History - the worst sinner being transformed into a holy saint. He asked God to forgive all his past sins and pleaded with Him like a spoiled but repenting child, "Oh God, give me just one chance". The Bible gives the following beautiful and graphical description of Samson's last plea and prayer to God. **Samson called unto the**

LORD, and said, O Lord God, remember me, I pray thee; and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes. Let me die with the Philistines". God heard his prayers and restored his lost strength. Samson bowed himself with all his might and the house fell upon all the Philistines. The Bible writes a most fitting epitaph paying glorious tribute to the war hero, **'the number of enemies Samson slew at his death were more than they which he slew in his whole life time'**. Yes! His death was more worthy than all the rest of his life.

Dear reader, what do we learn from the life of Samson? Some of us may find ourselves in the same situation as that of Samson. You might have committed many sins of omission and commission in your life, knowingly or unknowingly. God gave you many opportunities to repent and correct yourself, but you have thrown to the winds all those golden opportunities of coming back to God. You have knowingly or unknowingly gone against God. Now you have reached your wit's end in your life. God is offering you a last chance. Dear child of God, even now it is not too late. Turn to God. He is ready to hear your cry in this hour of crisis. Will you look to God and ask for his forgiveness? As He heard the prayer of Samson, He is ready to hear your prayer, not to die like Samson, but to live for God the rest of your life. Forget the past and determine to make a new start. There is no sin that God cannot forgive. There is no time which is too late in God's clock.

"Call unto me (in the days of trouble) and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not". (Jer. 33:3)

2. Widow of Zarephath

Another person who reached the wit's end of her life was the widow of Zarephath. In this case, it is very interesting to note that before this woman struck the rock bottom of her supply, it was preceded by another person who had to go through the same ordeal of supply being dried up. It was the prophet Elijah. The Cherith River, the only source of his water supply, dried up and he was asked by God to go over to Zarephath - not to a rich home, but to a poor hunger-stricken and starving family. God's instruction and guidance are indeed strange and inexplicable! Elijah met that widow as she was picking the firewood in the forest. Here is a case where two people having the same problem met each other sharing their common problems. In such a case, God is ready to perform a miracle. This reminds me of Sadhu Sundar Singh - the greatest Christian born in Indian soil. As he was walking with another friend, they came across a man almost frozen to death due to cold weather, lying on the ground. Sadhu told his companion, "Let us carry this man". But it was very cold and his friend was not ready to take the risk and so he walked away quickly. Then Sadhu Sundar Singh lifted up the half-dead man and carried him. After trekking a few miles, he saw another person lying on the ground frozen to death. It was his companion who refused to carry the half-dead man on the way. Because Sadhu carried another man, their bodies exchanged the heat and warmth and they both were alive. But the other selfish man was not ready to share another man's problem and so he perished.

Elijah is very thoughtful and intelligent. Knowing very well that the widow has her last morsel of bread, he does not ask her to bring

him bread, but simply asks her to bring some water, just to fleece her to go into the house. As she was going to get it, then he tells her his real intention. "Please bring me some bread also". Then she explains her plight by the following words: "All I have is a handful of flour and a drop of olive oil. I have come here to have some firewood to cook my last meal before we die". (I Kings 17:12) She seems to be telling him, 'we are going to prepare our last meal so that we will gain enough strength just to die'. Even for dying you need some strength! Then Elijah comes out with the formula to turn away 'the poverty into prosperity', by saying, 'Don't worry, FIRST make a small loaf from whatever you have and bring it to me, and then keep the rest for you and for your son. If you do this, then your bowl will not run out of flour nor the oil of the jar fail, until the day Lord sends rain'. (I Kings 17:12-15) The Bible continues the narration as: 'The widow went and did as Elijah had told her'. What was the result? The miracle in the family happened immediately. As the Lord had promised through Elijah, the bowl did not run out of flour nor did the jar run out of oil. She obeyed the words of Elijah and gave him first, her bread. That was the secret and key to prosperity and blessing.

What do we learn from the life of this widow? Some of us may be in the same state of plight as of the widow. You may have run short of supplies in your life. Financially you are in a tight corner. You have lost someone dear to you in your family. You are going through the toughest period in your life. Someone, on whom you have pinned down all your hopes, has let you down very badly. All the castles you have built in the sky have come down crashing to the ground. You have reached the dead end

of your life. Remember that man's extremity is God's opportunity. If this is so, why don't you follow her footsteps and walk out of your poverty and enter into prosperity? Whatever little you have as left over, give to God first, even the last morsel. Honour Him with your substance. The little boy gave his five loaves and two fishes into the hands of Jesus and it resulted in a miracle of feeding thousands of people. The poor widow, who put a coin in the offertory box, gave her all to God, even the last coin. Dear reader, do you want a miracle to happen in your family in the midst of poverty and shortage? Learn to give to God FIRST, from whatever little you have.

The Bible says, 'God loves those who give, not grudgingly but willingly and cheerfully'. In a church, as the offertory was being taken, one man - very strict and stingy in giving to God, in a hurry took a hundred rupees currency note and put it in the offertory, thinking it was a ten rupee currency note. But it was too late for him to retrieve it because the Rs. 100 note was already in. After the service, this man went and told the treasurer his plight and predicament: 'You see, I wanted to put only Rs. 10 but in a hurry I had put in Rs 100. So, please return Rs. 90.' But the treasurer told him, 'once your money enters the offertory box, it belongs to God and it cannot be given back to you. Moreover, how do I know you have put Rs 100?' So, the miser at last said: 'Okay, I had given Rs 100 to God and He will bless me accordingly'. To this the treasurer replied: 'your real intention was to give Rs 10 and not Rs 100. So, you will get God's blessing not for Rs. 100 but for Rs. 10 only'. So, this man lost on both the fronts - with his purse as well as with God's blessing. Maybe, you just smile at the above story, but it is better if we examine how much we give to

God and with what attitude. It does not matter how much we give to God, but the real issue is how much we keep back for ourselves. As far as giving to God is concerned, for some (poor) people, 'Less is more', but for some other (rich) people, 'More is less'. How much do we give to God, 'more' or 'less'?

It will be very instructive to read the following epitaph found on the graveyard of a Christian. Though dead, through these words, he literally appears to be alive and standing on his graveyard and preaching to everyone of us as follows: 'What I earned, I spent; what I saved, my children took it away; what I gave to God, I have now with me'. Why don't you strive to be a RICH MAN TOWARDS GOD, not only after death, but right from today?

3. David at Ziklag

"David was greatly distressed; for people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters; but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God." (1 Sam. 30:6)

David, now a leader of a vagabond, forsaken and disillusioned group of men, was facing one of the greatest crisis in his life. To escape from Saul, his arch enemy, David now has moved to the territory of the Philistines. In the parlance of today's parliamentary system, he has crossed floors and joined with the opposition. Not only this, David joined the army of Philistines to fight against the Israel. Will Napoleon join with the army of England and Churchill with the army of Hitler? But David has joined the army of Philistines! David was about to make one of the biggest mistakes in his lifetime by going

with the Philistines to fight against Israel. Sometimes, God speaks to us and prevents us from making such grave mistakes, even through un-godly people. The king of Philistines was willing to allow David to join his army, but his other Generals refused to allow David to go with them in the war. David and his men were very disappointed and returned to their base viz. Ziklag, a city donated by the Philistine king for David and his men. As they were returning, still greater disappointment awaited them. Sometimes, God allows little disappointments in our lives, only to prevent still greater disappointment. When David and his men returned home, to their utter dismay and disappointment, they found out that all their houses have been razed to the ground and burnt, and all their wives and children were found missing. Can there be a greater calamity than this? The Bible gives a graphical description - 'all the men and David started crying until they had no more strength to cry'.

Have you seen someone crying when they lose their loved ones? I will never forget how one of my close relatives, who lost her 25 years old young son, wept, cried and beat her breast and body in hysteria, when he died in a road accident. In the same way, David and his men cried and cried like mad fellows when they found none and nothing in their erstwhile homes. Now the real storm for David was gathering clouds. In a moment of weakness and in a fit of anger, all David's men turned against David. They wanted to stone David, because they thought, rightly or wrongly, he is the real culprit and the cause for their present tragedy. Really, David was in deep trouble. Here only the real leadership quality of David sparkles bright. He rightly understood and gauged the feelings of his

fellow men, and he not only did not want to react, but completely ignored their plot to stone him. Instead, he applied his mind what to do next.

The Bible says "**David encouraged himself in the Lord**". What a beautiful commentary of David's inner hidden character! He asked for "Ephod" - the symbol of seeking God and enquired God what he should do in this hour of crisis. Then we know the rest of the story. God gave David His green signal to pursue the enemy; the presence of mind of David helped him to catch one of the men of enemy's troops, who left him behind due to sickness, and through the clues extracted from him, David was able to find the location of the enemy troops - a most valuable strategic information in a war. Springing a sudden and surprise attack on the Amalakites, he scored a very fine victory and rescued everyone and everything he lost (1 Sam. 30). David not only got back what all he lost, but he and his men looted the enemy's camp. The thrilling story ends with David's sharing the above gifts with other men and leaders of Judah with the message: 'Here is a present for you from the loot we took from the Lord's enemies'. David's leadership was able to turn a seemingly hopeless situation into a glorious occasion of celebration.

Dear reader, are you finding yourself in a hopeless situation as that of David at Ziklag? Have you lost everything you had? Do not be dismayed. There is a ray of hope. Stop weeping like David's men. Only women weep. Be bold. Like David, get away from the mad crowd of weeping men with broken hearts. Stop mourning. Probably in this tense situation, your mind is stunned and stunted, refusing to think. But it is time to

think and act, that too quickly before it becomes too late. Delayed action is inaction. Like David, kneel down and ask for God's guidance. "David encouraged himself in the Lord". - When everything around looks dark, learn to look up. They that looked unto the Lord shall be enlightened. The Psalmist says, **God will guide the meek and teach his ways (25:9). God shall guide me with his counsel and lead me to glory (48:14). The prophet Isaiah says, 'God will make darkness into light, crooked things straight'**.

Dear child of God, remember that the problems that you are facing now is a challenge for you. Do not go under the problem, but stand over them and try to master them with God's help. Another important lesson we learn from this incident is that, David did not punish his men for revolting against him. As a leader, he understood that his men are always loyal to him, and that the plot to stone him did not come from their hearts, but due to the loss of their thinking and the loss of their families, and the pressure so built forced them to think like that. Some pregnant women at the time of their delivery sometimes curse their husbands and everyone around, due to the pain and birth pangs. Obviously, they do not mean what they say in their pain. So, David understood this well. A leader must know how to judge and gauge the weakness and mistakes of his subordinates. Not only that, David inspired them to go with him and pursue the enemies. Are you a leader? Be careful to apply these principles in your leadership. Are you facing a crisis in your life? Like David, go to God and kneel down and ask for His guidance. You will get back what all you have lost.

A teacher read to her Sunday Class, the text, 'My yoke is easy'. Then she asked 'what is a yoke?' One little girl answered, 'It is something put on the necks of the animals'. "O.K. what is the yoke that God puts on us?" Then the following answer came from a girl. "When God puts his arms around our necks, it becomes our yoke". What a nice answer! If you learn to see God's hand in every situation in your life, you will not hesitate to leave everything into God's hands.

"And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way; walk ye in it, when you turn to the right hand, and when you turn to the left" (Isaiah 30:21).

"Those who wept as they went out carrying the seed will come back singing for joy as they bring in the harvest" (Ps. 126:6).

4. Jacob at Peniel

"And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day. And Jacob said I will not let thee go except thou bless me" (Gen. 32:24-26).

Jacob was at the cross road of his life. Having earned much wealth and with a big contingent of wives, children, servants and cattle, he was returning home. Instead of saying he was returning home, it will be more appropriate to say that he was forced to leave his father-in-law's house. As he was approaching his home, a nagging thought lying dormant deep down in his heart for many years suddenly reared its ugly head. It is the enmity of his brother Esau which was the cause for his leaving his home town almost two decades ago. Jacob did not

realise the fact that 'Time is the best healer'. Somehow the rough and tough Esau has forgotten his enmity. Sometimes it is hard for the offender (Jacob) to forget the offense committed by him. In Tamil, we have a proverb which says "குற்றமுள்ள நெஞ்சம் குறுகுறுக்கும்" 'The guilty mind pricks the conscience'.

How to face the wrath of Esau - was his immediate concern. The only way out for him was to go out to a lonely place and seek God's help and guidance - the most sensible and spiritual decision ever taken in his lifetime. So he went to Peniel. He had an interesting, painful but gainful experience with an Angel of God. Even the Angel was surprised to see the eagerness, earnestness, zeal coupled with desperation with which Jacob wrestled with God. Jacob meant real business with God; "Oh God, unless you bless me, I am not going to let you go" - what a determination! We should not approach God for anything half-heartedly. Importunate prayers move God into action. Some of us are like the errand boy who goes to every house and presses the calling and before the lady of the house comes and opens the door, he runs away to the next house to repeat the mischief. Pressing the calling bell is a plaything and hobby for him. Instead, we should be like the sales woman who presses the calling bell - waits for the lady of the house even if she is busy - talks and talks till she sells her product of soap and cosmetics.

Yes! At Peniel, Jacob had a supernatural spiritual experience with God. When the Angel asked him, "What is your name?" I am sure there was a flash-back in the mind of Jacob almost 19 years back, when his father Isaac asked the very same question.

But now he has been tamed by his father-in-law, because only **iron sharpens iron** (Prov. 27:7). A crooked (Jacob) can be corrected only by a greater crooked (Laban). Laban was a perfect match for all the craftiness and deception of Jacob and now Jacob confesses, "My name is Jacob" (and Esau is not implied). When he was going towards his father-in-law's house and halted at Luz, the Bible says "the sun was set" (Gen. 28:11), but interestingly, when Jacob left Peniel after his encounter with God, the Bible records "**the sun rose upon him**" (Gen. 32:31). When we go to some place, the sun in our spiritual life sets, but when we rise up from our Peniel experience of encounter with God, the sun rises and shines. What a contrast! How is your spiritual life - sun set or sun rise?

Dear reader, are you afraid of facing some problem or someone in your life? Do not be afraid. Go to Peniel. You need a spiritual overhauling experience with God. What is your name? Jacob spent a day of importunate prayer with God. You must mean business with God - keep on praying with fasting. God will hear your cries in this crisis. God is very near to those whose hearts are broken. Tell God all your problems. God will change your name from Jacob into Israel. Sun will certainly rise in your life.

What a friend we have in Jesus

All our sins and griefs to bear

What a privilege to carry

Everything to God in prayer

Oh, what peace we often forfeit

Oh, what needless pain we bear

All because we do not carry

Everything to God in prayer

5. Penitent thief on the cross

"The (penitent) thief said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. Jesus said unto him, verily I say unto you, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise" (Lu. 23:43).

Here is another man who was literally dying and standing at the wit's end of his life. It was a death cry. Have you ever heard the cry of a dying person? Many years back, one of my neighbours died all of a sudden. I will never forget the screaming and howling and heart-chilling cry that rent the atmosphere in the dead of the night when he died. Death was fast approaching this penitent thief. Have you ever walked in the valley of death? What kind of thoughts passed through your mind? I did pass through that experience a few months back. After my heart attack in Canada, as I was driven to the hospital, all the sermons I have preached about death came to my mind. I just smiled within myself. Of course, at that time, all of a sudden I felt the overwhelming presence of God around me and he spoke to me, 'This sickness is for my glory and for the extension of your ministry'. I have never felt the presence of God so overwhelmingly and so close in my life before. It is good to have such an experience (minus the heart attack) because it draws us still closer to God.

This penitent thief on the cross cried to Jesus for salvation. Dear reader, I want to ask you a personal question - "Are you saved?" Many people do not like such a

personal question. When I was doing my M.E. course, one of my Maths Professor, was a Christian. One day I went to his room to clear some doubts about Bessel function. After clearing my doubt, I asked him another question, "Sir, you are a Christian. Do you have a personal born-again experience?" My Professor was a bit surprised and gave a terse reply, "I do not like such personal questions". I am sure, as you read this message, you do not answer like my Maths Professor. Yes! Dear reader, Jesus told Nicodemus, another intellectual like my Maths Professor, "You must be born again". Yes! You must be born again. For this you need not wait until you are crucified on the cross till the last moment of your life (like the penitent thief). One day God asked Billy Graham to talk to Marlin Munroe, the celebrated cine-star, about her salvation. But Marlin Munroe's secretary said, 'you can contact her only after a week's time'. When that one week's time passed, she committed suicide by swallowing sleeping pills. Procrastination has cost her soul and eternity.

Dear reader, God is speaking to you through this message. Do not postpone the day of your salvation. Repent and confess your sins. You might have gone away from God like the prodigal son. God is waiting for your home-coming. TODAY is the day of salvation. NOW is the apt time for your salvation. Summer is ended; the harvest is past, but you should not remain unsaved.

"I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy

sins; return unto me; for I have redeemed thee" (Is. 44:22).

We have heard the cries of five people in the Bible during the peak crisis in their lives. Those people have died and gone, but those crisis they faced, remain the same even today. Like Samson and the penitent thief, some of us may be facing a deadly crisis. The word 'too late', is not found in God's dictionary. Feel sorry for your sins and ask for God's forgiveness. The Bible says, "**He will abundantly pardon**" (Is. 53:7). Like David you may be driven to the walls and may be sitting on hot water. You are facing a great loss. Do not lose your heart. Pick up the Ephod and seek God's guidance. Pursue the enemy and you will get back what all you have lost. Like the widow of Zarephath, your supplies have been dried up. Do not forget to use her formula for prosperity viz. 'Give to God FIRST, whatever little you have'. Give pre-eminence and top priority to God in your life. You will experience a miracle in your home. Neither the barrel of the meal nor the cruse of the oil will fail. Like Jacob, go to Peniel to have a supernatural experience with God to become the 'prince' of God.

As we approach the end of this message, are you still at the wit's end of your life? If this message has really gone into your heart, God will turn your wit's end into portals of glorious entrance into all God's blessings and He will turn your cries into shouts of joy out of victory and triumph.

- Rev. Prof. S. Panneer Selvam

EDITORIAL

Dear Beloved Saththiya Vaarthai readers in Christ,

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

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27).

The biggest gift that our Lord Jesus Christ has given to man, is "Peace". He said, 'Peace I leave with you'. How many of us received the peace given by Him?

If there is peace in the lives of individuals, there will be peace in the family; if there is peace in families, there will be peace in the town/city; if there is peace in the towns/cities, there will be peace in the nation; if there is peace in the nations, there will be peace in the world. Once, many nations met together to establish peace in the world. The efforts taken through 17th, 18th and 19th centuries ended in World Wars in the 20th century.

How to get the God-given peace? **"Learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart"** said Jesus. Hence, to obtain peace, we must go to Jesus; when we obey His commandments we receive peace. **"Great peace have they which love thy law; nothing shall offend them"**. Peace of Jesus, means showing love, forgiving, bearing, humility, meekness and long suffering. We must have these qualities. We cannot die on the cross like Jesus, but we can certainly love and forgive. When we follow these, we get perfect peace.

"Thou will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee; because he trusteth in thee" (Isaiah 26:3).

Bro. Simon shared the Word of God in the Bethesda Deliverance Church (FHF Ministry), Erode on 20th May 2018 and in the CSI Church at Yelaayiram Pannai on 27th May 2018. From 14th to 25th May 2018, our Mundari language translators had been to BSI Bangalore for checking their translated works, under the guidance of Rev. Premraj Nag of BSI. Certificates were distributed - on 19th May 2018 at Sivakasi and on 30th May 2018 at Ooty - to those who underwent training in tailoring and computer in our training centres.

A meeting to commemorate the Fifth Anniversary of our Founder President Rev. Prof. S. Panneer Selvam was held on 2nd June 2018. At that time, Gospel of Matthew translated into 'Koya' and 'Sora' languages for the first time, were dedicated and released. A book written by me, "Viviliya Payanaththin Vidivelli," was also dedicated and released. Details about the life and ministry of Rev. Prof. S. Panneer Selvam are written in this book. Buy it, read it and determine to achieve something for God in your life too.

Pray for all the ministries of IBT. Pray that the Word of God becomes available to people of every language in India. We also pray for you all.

May the blessing of our Lord be with us all!

Your sister in Christ
Mrs. D. Sudandira Devi

IBT - PROGRAMMES ON 2nd JUNE 2018 MEETING



Mrs. D. Sudandira Devi presenting a Laptop to the translator.



Mr. M. John William presenting a Laptop to the translator.



Mr. K.E. Joykutty presenting a Laptop to the translator.



Mirgan language translator Bro. Ayub Suna explaining his ministry work.



Poet Isakkiraj presenting "Viviliya Payanaththin Vidivelli" book.



Rev. Thanaraj presenting "Viviliya Payanaththin Vidivelli" book.

IBT - PROGRAMMES ON 2nd JUNE 2018 MEETING



Rev. John Raja presenting Matthew Gospel book in Sora language.



Bro. P. Jabez Selwyn presenting Matthew Gospel book in Koya language.



Bro. Rev. Subramanian presenting Matthew Gospel book in Koya language.



Dedication Prayer for 3 books and Laptops.



Pastors dedicating 2 Gospel books and "Viviliya Payanaththin Vidivelli" book.



Bro. P. Jabez Selwyn witnessing about his father Rev. Prof. S. Panneer Selvam

**MEMORIAL PRAYER MEETING ON THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF
REV. PROF. S. PANNEER SELVAM
HELD ON 2ND JUNE 2018**

A memorial prayer meeting on the Fifth Anniversary of our Founder President Rev. Prof. S. Panneer Selvam was held at 5-30 p.m. on Saturday, the 2nd June 2018, in the IBT Centre at Coimbatore. Bro. D. Vasu anchored the meeting. With prayer by Bro. D. Ravi, the meeting commenced with devotional songs and worship led by Bro. S. Rajan and his troupe. Rev. John Raja prayed the Opening prayer and Sister Navamani Sekar read from the Bible, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. Bro. M. John William welcomed and greeted the participants. Bro. Samuel Gnanadhas explained in detail how the IBT was founded by our Founder in 1978 and since then, how IBT has grown in various fields - translation, missionary, literary and social work fields.

Speaking about Rev. Prof. Panneer Selvam, Rev. Subramanian, Senior Translations Adviser, BSI, described how Ayyah was a great translator, a man of sacrifice, a great writer and a great trainer. As he would always mention, 'Think fast, act faster', he implemented it in his life, himself. Let us work together for achieving the goals set for this ministry.

Then, Rev. Thanraj of TELC, Arulpuram, stated that Ayyah, who gave up his lucrative job of a being H.O.D. in CIT, considering God's call for Bible Translation ministry as more honourable work, can be called as Ziegen Balg of the 21st Century He was instrumental in shaping many (including himself and his brother) to become pastors. Both Ayyah and Amma showered their impartial love upon us and have helped us. Messages written by Ayyah are being used by many pastors including himself. Let us all pray and work for the expansion of these ministries.

Bro. Jabez Selwyn, son of our Founder, speaking about his father, recollected that Ayyah

used to mention about the five personalities of himself - 1) Panneer Selvam known to outsiders; 2) Panneer Selvam known to his co-workers; 3) Panneer Selvam known to his family; 4) Panneer Selvam known to himself and 5) Panneer Selvam known to God. To the best of his knowledge, his father was consistent in all the five personalities. In his messages, he will only speak about the truth as contained in the scriptures. He used to practise what he preached. He spoke keeping Jesus as the centre. In the beginning, the IBT office was only a small room, but by his faith he would visualize a building as we have at present before his eyes. The Lord gracefully granted it as per his faith. He would always express his deep desire in every meeting, that the translators of IBT would enable him to see a Full Bible in his lifetime. Bro. Selwyn appealed to the translators to achieve the goal at least by the next anniversary.

Bro. S. Rajasekaran, in his tribute said Ayyah was a proper example for the statement 'good and faithful servant'. As stated by his son, he lived according to what he preached. He was one servant of God who did not change his 'vision' till the end. God's grace was with him, in the beginning and in the end. He was a role model for all servants of God. He lived true to his testimony to 1) his conscience, 2) his family, 3) others and 4) before God.

Rev. John Raja led in prayer while the servants of God laid their hands on the three books and dedicated them before release. The first copy of the Gospel of Matthew translated into Koya language was released by Rev. Subramanian of BSI and was received by our Mirgan Translator Bro. Ayub Suna. The second copy was released by Bro. Jabez Selwyn and was received by our Sambalpuri Translator Bro. Jayant Panigrahi. The first copy of the Gospel of Matthew translated into Sora language was

released by Rev. S.C. Jeyakumar and was received by our Sora Translator Bro. Susthira Singh. The second copy was released by Rev. John Raja and was received by Bro. Balachandran. The first copy of the book "Viviliya Payanaththin Vidivelli" written by Amma was released by Rev. Thanraj and was received by Bro. R. John William. The second copy was released by Poet Isakki Raj and was received by Prof. John Victor. Poet Isakki Raj, before releasing the book, spoke highly of the book and Amma's writing talent.

IBT President thanked the sponsors who liberally donated for purchasing 7 laptops for use by IBT translators. Of these, 4 were given to the translators present. Mrs. D. Sudandira Devi presented the first laptop which was received by Bro. Ayub Suna. The second laptop was presented by Bro. S. Timothy and was received by Bro. Jayant Panigrahi. The third laptop was presented by Bro. K.E. Joy Kutty and was received by Bro. Vijay Raj. The fourth laptop was presented by Bro. M. John William and was received by Bro. Susthira Singh.

Then two translators read out from the Gospel of Matthew newly translated into Koya and Sora languages, verses Matt. 5:1-16 and Matt. 12:18-21. The brothers from Odisha also sang a song in Odiya and glorified God.

Then Rev. Chella Rajan of CSI, 9th Street Church, shared the Word of God. He recalled his association with Rev. Prof. Panneer Selvam in the days when he was serving in the Nilgiris and the frequent discussions they had about the ministries. Ayyah was always well-dressed, good-looking and was ever sporting a smiling face. He spoke quoting verses I Thess. 4:16, I Cor. 15: 16, 44 and 49 and II Cor. 5:5. He concluded that Ayyah has proved through his life, that whatever one may do, that which is done for God alone will stand for ever.

Bro. R. John William gave the vote of thanks to all the distinguished guests and everyone who attended and made the meeting a special one.

With final prayer and benediction by Rev. S.C. Jeyakumar of CSI All Souls Church, the meeting concluded. Dinner was served to all.

FIELD NEWS

Translator : Bro. S.N. Sankar
Language : Sourashtra
Mission Field : Trichy

May the Holy name of the Lord be glorified! In the translation work, language checking and keying-in computer has been completed in respect of the Books of Exodus - Chapters 25 to 40; Leviticus - Chapters 1 to 27 and Numbers - Chapters 1 to 15. I am getting up early in the morning to do checking and computer key-in work. In this checking work, for removing incorrect words and for substituting them with the right words, my wife Sarala, who is the language helper, is of great help. First checking of the Books of Joshua, Judges and II Chronicles, as well as second checking of the

Books of Genesis and Exodus are completed. From 5th to 10th March 2018, exegetical checking by BSI has also been completed in respect of the Books of Joshua, Judges and Ruth. With great difficulty I could find words in Sourashtra for words such as "projections, hook, cups, curtains, cherubim, peace-offering, wave-offering, atonement, ephod", etc. It was, indeed, challenging to translate verses having literary style in the Books of II Chronicles, Joshua and Judges, without changing their meaning. I met some Sourashtra-speaking persons, preached the Gospel and prayed for them. Please pray for my translation work, so that Full Bible in Sourashtra language may be released very soon.

PRAY AND PRAISE

1. In the Fifth Memorial Anniversary Meet of IBT's Founder President Rev. Prof. S. Panneer Selvam held on 2nd June 2018 at IBT Centre, Coimbatore, a book "Viviliya Payanaththin Vidivelli" authored by IBT Co-Founder, Mrs. D. Sudandira Devi, and Gospel of Matthew translated by IBT translators into "KOYA" and "SORA" languages of Odisha state, were released. Praise the Lord for the same! In the book written by Co-Founder Amma, she has covered Ayyah's life right from the days of his youth until the end, how he had carried on his work with great dedication to God. Inter-weaving appropriate verses from the Holy Bible, Amma has written Ayyah's biography in such a lucid manner, making it not only interesting, but also helping the reader to grow in spiritual life. Please pray for the distribution of all the 1000 printed copies of this book to be distributed, and for the early distribution of Gospel books to the respective language-speaking people, enabling them to come into salvation.
2. It has been planned to undertake exegetical checking by BSI of some of the books of Old Testament translated into Bhojpuri language from 16th to 28th of this month. Pray for execution of this work without any hindrance and for the release of Full Bible in Bhojpuri language by the end of this year.
3. Translation of New Testament into Sambalpuri and Mundari languages has already been completed a couple of years ago; BSI exegetical checking is being carried on now. Please pray for the early completion of this checking and for the printing of New Testament in these languages by the year end.
4. In response to the appeal made in our "Saththiya Vaarthai" magazine, Bro. Lesley Jesudhas of Melapalayam liberally contributed Rs. 70,000 for buying 5 laptops, Bro. Joy Kutty of Coimbatore and Bro. K.A. John of Kerala contributed Rs. 14000 each to buy 2 laptops. Praise the Lord for the same! Further we require 3 more laptops. Pray for getting sponsors for the same.

Please send / renew your :

Annual Subscription Rs. 100/-

to

WORD PUBLISHERS TRUST

Civil Aerodrome Road, Coimbatore - 641 014.

Send all your Contributions :

Cheques / DD / M.O. to

INDIAN BIBLE TRANSLATORS

Civil Aerodrome Road, Coimbatore - 641 014.

Phone : 0422-2574143, 4520143

Mobile : 90470 57414

E-mail : indianbibletranslators@gmail.com

Web : www.ibt1.com

Editor & Published by
On behalf of

Smt D. SUDANDIRA DEVI
WORD PUBLISHERS TRUST
14, Ashok Layout,
Civil Aerodrome Road,
Coimbatore - 641 014.

Printed by

Mr. C.K. VENKATESH
Chandra Prabha Press
113-118, V.H. Road, CBE-1.

SATHTHIYA VAARTHAI - ENGLISH

Date of Posting : 2nd & 3rd July 2018

RNI No. 82165

Postal Regd. No. CB/051/2018-2020 (English)

Licensed to Post without Prepayment No.

TN/WR/CBE/051/WPP/2018-2020 (English)