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SATHTHIYA VAARTHAI

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

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JONAH'S ENCOUNTERS WITH GOD



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INTRODUCTION

Jonah is a prophet of the Lord. All we know about him is that he is the son of Amittai and that he is from Gath Hopher. He was a prophet of Israel during the time of Jeroboam II (II Kgs. 14: 25).

FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH GOD

Jonah's first encounter with God was when God told him to go to Nineveh. He was to proclaim impending judgement on the city because God says that its wickedness had reached Him.

BIBLICAL HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Nineveh was the capital city of the Assyrian Empire. During those days the Assyrian Empire was the most powerful in Asia Minor of those ancient days. Remember that it was the Assyrian Empire that destroyed the Northern kingdom of Israel in 722 BC. This puts Jonah's time about 50 years before this destruction.

There was a man called Nimrod (descendant of Ham) who is described in Gen 10: 8-10 thus: ***And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the LORD: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD. And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. Out of that land went forth Asshur (Assyria), and built Nineveh, and the city Rehoboth, and Calah,*** "Nimrod built Nineveh, the capital of Assyria and Babel, the capital of Babylonia and it was Babylon that destroyed the Southern kingdom of Judah and destroyed

the temple at Jerusalem in 586 BC.

The Assyrians were fierce fighters and historically brutal with their enemies. They would torture their captives – they even put out the eyes of King Zedekiah (II Kgs. 25: 7) when they took him captive years later. Such wickedness by the Assyrians had reached God and He, being a compassionate and loving God, wanted to give them an opportunity to repent. God does not destroy any nation without giving them an opportunity to repent. Jonah is the first missionary of the Lord to a gentile nation.

JONAH'S DISOBEDIENCE

When Jonah received God's message to go to Nineveh and warn them, he decided to go to Tarshish (Spain). Nineveh is located in the northern part of today's Iraq. I understand that it is called Mosul. Nineveh is about 800 miles north of Israel and Tarshish is westward across the Mediterranean Sea from Israel. Jonah did not want to see Nineveh being spared because if they repented as a result of his message, God won't destroy them!

Jonah wanted to flee from the presence of the Lord to avoid obeying His command! This reminds me of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. God had told them not to eat the fruit of only one tree and that on the day that they eat, they shall "surely die". Satan tempted Eve and both ate of the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. This disobedience made them feel guilty as their eyes were opened and they recognized that they were naked and covered themselves with fig leaves. When God came to meet them 'in the cool of the day', they hid from

'the presence of the Lord'. People think that they can hide – they do not want others to know about their wicked deeds. Young children usually hide from their parents when they have disobeyed their parents. We can never hide from God for the Bible says in Ps. 139: 7-10 ***"Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me."***

David thought that he could hide his guilty deeds from the Lord till the prophet Nathan confronted him and thus his confession, especially Ps. 51: 11 where he pleads, ***"Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me."*** It is comforting to know that when we are open with God and live in obedience to His word, we fulfil Ps. 140: 13 ***"Surely the righteous shall give thanks unto thy name: the upright shall dwell in thy presence."*** What a joy to live in God's presence!

Jonah goes to Joppa and pays his way for his trip to Tarshish by ship. God sends a storm, and the winds were fierce enough to toss the boat in such a way that the ship was about to be broken up. The sailors were afraid and began to call on their gods for deliverance, but there was no deliverance. Finding Jonah asleep in the lowest part of the ship, they woke him up to call on "your God". They decided that one of them was responsible for the storm and began to cast lots. The lot fell on Jonah. They question Jonah only to find out that ***Jon. 1: 9 "And he said unto them, I am an Hebrew; and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, which hath made the sea***

and the dry land." They feared greatly when they heard this about Jonah's God. Having determined that he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord, they asked him for a solution. He asked them to cast him into the sea and after asking God not to punish them for what they were going to do, they threw Jonah into the sea. The storm stopped immediately. It is interesting to note that a believer, even when he is misguided God can use him to bring glory to God. The sailors then made vows to God and made sacrifices to God. They were now believers in the true God! ***Jon. 1: 16 "Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice unto the LORD, and made vows."***

JONAH IN THE BELLY OF A FISH

God in the meantime had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. He was in the belly of the fish for 3 days and 3 nights. Many have cast doubts about this incident in the life of Jonah. However, if you believe in Jesus, then you will not be in doubt regarding this incident. The Jews in the time of Jesus questioned Him on many things, trying to trap Him. They also asked Him to prove that He is the Messiah who was to come and give them a sign to prove it. We read in ***Lk. 11: 29-30 "And when the people were gathered thick together, he began to say, This is an evil generation: they seek a sign; and there shall no sign be given it, but the sign of Jonas the prophet. For as Jonas was a sign unto the Ninevites, so shall also the Son of man be to this generation."*** or ***Mt. 12: 40 "For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."*** In Jesus' reply to them, He was talking about his death and burial for He rose from the grave on the 3rd day. Jesus knew

about Jonah and Nineveh, and He used this incident in His reply. I pray that you will not be a sceptic but believe this to be true.

Jonah was cornered and in a very difficult situation. He could never get out by himself. No one was there to help him. No one even knows that Jonah is here! We only know that he was in the belly of the fish for 3 days and nights. I wonder as you read this – have you been or are in such a difficult situation so that you have no one to talk to - no one knows your predicament – no one to help you in any way and probably no one even knows your difficult situation. Take heart because we worship a God who knows about it, and He is waiting for you to call out to Him. He is the only one who can provide a way of deliverance.

JONAH'S REPENTANCE

I am not sure if Jonah prayed to God only after the 3rd day. He probably knew that it was the Lord God who put Him there and that only He can deliver Him. God got Jonah's attention. Sometimes the Lord allows us to go through difficult situations to draw us back to Himself. He sees us as precious people who had perhaps gone astray and His love is extending to bring us back to Him. Jonah was surely aware that God was the only one who knew where he was. He also knew that God was his only hope for his deliverance.

King Hezekiah found himself in a very difficult situation. He became sick and almost died. The prophet Isaiah went to him and declared “**Thus says the Lord: set thy house in order for thou shalt not live but die**”(Is. 36: 1). This is the Lord's prophet, and this is God's word to him. There was no one who could help him now. He could not even plead with the prophet. He was a good king, and he had faith

and trust in God and had brought a great revival in the kingdom of Judah. He knew His God intimately enough to go directly to Him in prayer, pleading with Him, and weeping before Him. It says in **II Kg. 20: 4** that the answer came to Isaiah even before he could reach the middle court of the palace to go back to Hezekiah and tell him that God had granted him another 15 years of life! God heard his prayer immediately. We are encouraged by the apostle Paul to go directly to the 'throne of grace' when he says in **Heb. 4: 16** “**Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.**”

Jesus and His disciples were on a boat crossing the Sea of Galilee. Jesus was asleep in the boat. A storm came and the boat was being tossed about. The disciples had no one to help but Jesus. They woke Him up and He calmed the storm instantly. No wonder the apostle Paul writes that we are looking unto Jesus “the Author and Finisher of our faith.” He has our life in His loving hands, and He knows how to deliver us. Call on Him and trust Him and wait on Him for your deliverance.

Jonah now cries out to the Lord, his only hope. You see, Jonah was in a very peculiar prayer closet. No distractions, no interruptions, no hurried prayers, no appointments to keep, and no quieter place for prayer! Here is what Jesus said about the prayer environment in **Mt. 6: 6** “**But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.**” He describes to God his environment – while he was running away from God's sight. He now says, “I have been cast out of Thy sight.” He acknowledges “When my soul fainted within me, I remembered the Lord.” He

seems to even remember the mariners on the ship who were worshipping idols and concludes that those who do so are indeed rejecting the love and mercy of God (Jon. 2: 8). Finally, he says that "Salvation is of the Lord." It was the Lord who took the sins of mankind on the cross to provide eternal life to all those who believe. The Lord heard his prayer, and God "spoke to the fish and it vomited Jonah onto dry land." God hears our prayers no matter where we pray from. Just remember to call on Him, and He will surely answer you.

SECOND ENCOUNTER WITH GOD

Now that Jonah was on dry land, the Lord spoke to him a second time. This time the Lord asked Jonah to go to Nineveh and preach the message that He would give to him. ***"And the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the second time, saying, Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee."*** Jon. 3: 1, 2

God does not abandon His children because they went astray or disobeyed. There are consequences and afflictions for it, but God is a faithful God and He will continue to seek the one who went astray to draw him/her back, just like how a shepherd goes after the lost sheep. When the prodigal son decided to return to his father's house, his father was ready to receive him and celebrate his return. David repented for his sins and God accepted him, but the consequences were bitter for the rest of his life.

Never think that God will not accept you again because of your failures. Jesus said in **Jn. 6: 37** ***"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."*** God is a God of second and third chances. He is a forgiving God when we return to Him in repentance. **I Jn. 1: 9** ***"If we***

confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." And again in **1 Jn. 2: 1-2** ***"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."***

Paul and Barnabas took Mark with them (Acts 12). Mark had subsequently left them (we don't know the reason). We read in Acts 15 that Barnabas wanted to take Mark, but Paul (as a result of Mark leaving them) did not want to take him back. However, later on, Paul finds Mark to be of great use to him. Mark had returned to the ministry. Praise God that He can use men of God if they would return with all their hearts. **I Tim. 4: 11** ***"Only Luke is with me. Take Mark and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry."***

Jonah reached Nineveh and here is the message that God put in his heart to preach (Jon. 3:4). He went throughout the city for 3 days preaching this message. The reaction of the people of Nineveh was immediate. **Jon. 3: 5** ***"So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them."*** They did not want to be destroyed but believed the God of Jonah and his words that God would destroy them in forty days unless they repent. Even the king of Nineveh called on the people including the animals to be in sackcloth and sat in ashes and published an announcement for them to fast and repent. They depended on God's forgiveness; **Jon. 3: 9** ***"Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not?"***

Even though these were once violent people, they stopped their violence and repented of their wickedness and God did not destroy them as in **Jon. 3: 10** ***“And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not.”***

In the days of Jesus, the Pharisees, and the elders of the Jews constantly harassed Jesus with question and unwilling to accept Him as the Jewish Messiah which was to come, in spite of all the miracles that Jesus did. They still asked for a sign that Jesus is the Messiah, but Jesus pointed to how the people of Nineveh repented at the preaching of Jonah, but that the generation living at the time was unwilling to do it even though He a greater than Jonah was standing before them. **Mt. 12: 41** ***“The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and behold, a greater than Jonas is here.”*** When the Lord convicts you of sin, it behoves us to repent of it and back to God and it will make things much easier. I heard a preacher say, “Don't wait to experience affliction because it will turn out to be expensive.” **Prov. 28: 13** ***“He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.”***

THIRD ENCOUNTER WITH GOD

This displeased Jonah very much and he became very angry. Jonah prays and tells God why he fled to Tarshish. **Jon. 4: 2** ***“And he prayed unto the LORD, and said, I pray thee, O LORD, was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil.”*** He then asks God to take his life. Nevertheless, he makes a shelter outside the city and waited to see what will happen to Nineveh. The Lord prepared a plant to provide shelter from the sun and Jonah was very pleased. The morning of the next day, God 'prepared' a worm and it destroyed the plant which withered. When the sun was hot, God 'prepared' a strong wind and the sun was very hot, and Jonah grew faint. He wished for death again. God then teaches Jonah a lesson of God's grace and mercy in **Jon. 4: 10-11** ***“Then said the LORD, Thou hast had pity on the gourd, for the which thou hast not laboured, neither madest it grow; which came up in a night, and perished in a night: And should not I spare Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than sixscore thousand persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand; and also much cattle?”***

- Dr. Sam Russell

APPEAL

As you all know, with your contribution, IBT is financially supporting our missionaries' Children for their education every year. Now for the academic year of 2023-24 the Schools and Colleges will be re-opened shortly, and we need Rs. 3,00,000/- for their educational support. We therefore, prayerfully request all the sponsors, Subscribers of Saththiya Vaarthai Magazine and those who have burden for the ministry to generously extend their help for the education of these missionaries' children.

- Treasurer

NEWS LETTER

We convey our loving greetings to you in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

“And those who seek me diligently will find me” (Proverbs 8:11).

Many Christians do not rise up early in the morning to worship God because getting up early in the morning is quite difficult in the beginning. If we practice any habit for 40 days, we will get used to it. Especially in winter and rainy seasons, there will be idleness to get up early in the morning. However, if we have to receive blessings from God, we should sacrifice our early morning sleep.

“A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man” (Proverbs 6:10-11).

The Bible says that if we do not seek God early in the morning, poverty and scarcity will come. Not only worldly poverty and scarcity are mentioned here, but also, spiritual poverty and scarcity are mentioned. We will also lack the fruit of the Spirit, such as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Proverbs 6:11 says that scarcity will come like an armed man. If anyone comes against us with a weapon, surely we cannot overcome it. Jesus says that we have to be awake in prayer so we will not be led to temptation. Every day, before we enter into this sinful world, we have to be filled with the presence of God. Only then we can escape from the sinful temptations and the snare of Satan.

In the days when Jesus lived on this earth, He set an example to us by praying early in the

morning. He also asked His disciples, "Could not you men keep watch with me for one hour?" God's grace is new every morning, so we have to receive it.

God met Adam and Eve in the cool of the day in the Garden of Eden. Cool of the day means early in the morning. According to the verse in Job 7:18, God comes walking about to meet His people in the early morning.

At the beginning of each day, if we give the first hour to God and wait at His feet and worship Him, God will extend our boundaries. ***“Seek the Lord while he may be found” (Isaiah 55:6).***

On the 22nd of last April, Bro. Raja Kumar shared God's message, and Bro. D. Ravi introduced the IBT ministry in the Erode TELC Church Fasting Prayer. On the 23rd of the same month, in the same Church, Bro. Raja Kumar shared God's message and explained the IBT ministry in the morning worship. On the same day, Bro. Isaac Samraj shared God's Word and Bro. Varamaniraj explained the IBT ministry in the morning worship at C.S.I. St. Paul's Church in Sathur. IBT conveys its heartfelt thanks to both church pastors, secretaries and treasures for giving opportunities and offerings to the IBT ministries. IBT also conveys its gratitude to all the church believers who took part.

On the 23rd, 24th, and 25th of May, Para text training was conducted for the Tamil Nadu and Karnataka translators in the Coimbatore IBT Centre. Translators of six languages and Bro. Ezra Calab who works in the office attended the training. IMS missionaries Bro. Isaac and Sister. Girija Isaac conducted the classes. IBT Field Director Bro. Samuel Gnanadhas also attended this training.

On the 2nd June, the tenth year of Memorial Day of the IBT founder Rev. Prof. S. Panneer Selvam, the New Testament audio device in Deshia language and Mundari New Testament books were dedicated and published. Pray for these two Bibles to be distributed to the people of these language speakers and the people who receive it, to know and accept Jesus Christ.

Kindly pray for other language translation works, missionary works, literary works and social works. We are praying for all of you. May the Lord continue to bless you.

Shalom!

In Christ's service
Your Brother
K. Jaisingh

10th Year Memorial Day Prayer Meeting of IBT Founder, Rev. Prof. S. Panneer Selvam

On 02.06.2023, the 10th year Memorial Day prayer meeting of the IBT founder, Rev. Prof. S. Panneer Selvam, began at evening 05.40 pm with prayer offered by IBT former President Bro. S. Timothy. After that, songs of praise were sung. After the singing, Bro. John William welcomed everyone who came for the meeting.

Bible reading was read by Mrs. Navamani Sekar from 2 Timothy 4:1-6. Rev. Jayachandran from TELC Centenary Church, Peelamedu, Coimbatore, shared God's message. He said, "We are the Lord's chosen generation and royal priesthood, we have to live according to our words, and we should please the Lord in all our actions and live as an example to others." He said that Rev. Prof. S. Panneer Selvam lived his life and adhered to these things, and through his God's message, he explained to the churches the significance of gospel work. He spoke highly about the Sathiya Vaarthai Magazine, which is published with God's message, are useful for many people who get and read it. He said that from the time he joined as assistant pastor in TELC, Rev. Prof. S. Panneer Selvam gave him

good advice. He said that we should set his life as an example and live.

After the message, Sis. Poongili told that the Toda language New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs were read to the Toda people in Ooty. She also explained about the audio recording. She said there is a need for 50 audio devices, and it is very hard for these language-speaking people to get it for Rs. 400/-, so, it will be very useful if the amount will be lessened.

Rev. Jayachandran and Mr. S. Rajasekaran dedicated the Deshia New Testament audio device and Mundari New Testament. After that, Rev. Jayachandran gave the first copy of the Mundari New Testament and Bro. K. Jaisingh received it. Mrs. D. Sudandira Devi gave the second copy of the same book and Bro. K. E. Joy Kutty received it. The First Deshia New Testament audio device was given by Bro. Anbalagan and it was received by Bro. Raja Kumar. The second audio device was given by Bro. S. Raja Sekaran and Bro. D. Ravi received it.

IBT PROGRAMMES



Translator, Bro. Christdan in Deshia New Testament audio recording.



Sis. Girija Isaac conducted the Pre-training for translation in IBT Centre in the month of May, for the Tamil Nadu and Karnataka translators, Mr. Ezra Calab & Mr. Samuel Gnanadas.



Bro. Kesab Mirgan with translators in Checking works of Bandeli and Soura New Testament



Bro. Pithambar Mahanand with translators in checking work of Dingal, Vagri and Bageli gospel books and New Testament.



Bro. Gideon leading the praise and worship on 12.05.2023 at the beginning of the IBT annual fasting prayer.



FMPB missionary Rev. Rajan Arthur is sharing God's message in the IBT annual fasting prayer.

IBT PROGRAMMES



Bro. M. John William delivering the welcome address on the 10th year memorial day prayer meeting of the IBT founder on 02.06.2023 at IBT Centre.



Rev. Jayachandran dedicating the Deshia New Testament audio device and the Mundari New Testament books.



Bro. D. Ravi receiving the Deshia New Testament audio device given by Mr. S. Raja Sekaran.



Mrs. D. Sudandira Devi giving the Mundari New Testament and Mr. K. E. Joy Kutty is receiving.



Bro. Anbalagan sharing the testimony about IBT founder Rev. Prof. S. Panneer Selvam.



Bro. Paul Matthew is explaining about the audio recording.

After this, Bro. Paul Matthew, who did the recording, mentioned that his father and Rev. Panneer Selvam studied together in the linguistic class, and due to health issues, his father could not continue in the ministry but Rev. Panneer Selvam continued in the ministry. He said that God gave him the vision from Revelation 7:9 to minister among minority language-speaking people. He said it is a great pleasure for him to work with the IBT ministry.

After this, the prayer of thanks was offered by Bro. S. Raja Sekar also prayed for the unity to fulfil the vision of IBT ministries.

IBT treasurer, Bro. John Sekar delivered the vote of thanks. Rev. Jayachandran offered the closing prayer with benediction. With this, the meeting was pleasantly concluded. Dinner was provided for everyone who came for the meeting.

FIELD NEWS

Translator: Bro. S. N Sankar

Language: Sourashtra

Mission Station: Trichy (Tamil Nadu)

I praise God for the translation ministry given to me by the Lord, who knows my whole life.

Last April, I went to Tirunelveli and recorded the whole New Testament in the Sourashtra language with the help of BSI.

On last 22.04.2023, I went to Madurai and conducted the Bible study. Forty people attended this meeting. In this meeting, I explained how the book of Psalms was translated into the Sourashtra language with accuracy and without any change of meaning. I encouraged the pastors and believers to read the Bible in the Sourashtra language. In the same month, I went to Coimbatore IBT Centre along with the translator Samuel. I did the translation checking of Psalms 101-150 in the Irula Velliyankadu language.

Likewise, I went to Kanchipuram and explained to the church believers how to read and understand the Bible correctly. Here 50

people attended and all benefited. I am also preparing to record the Bible verses in the Sourashtra language to send via WhatsApp. Kindly pray for the distribution of Sourashtra Bibles and Sourashtra speakers.

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Promotional Staff: Bro. P. Selvaraj

**Mission Station: Tirunelveli and Madurai
(Tamil Nadu)**

Greetings to you in the living name of Jesus Christ!

Last month for promotional work, I went to Madurai, and I visited Udhayanagar, Anaiyur, Ellis Nagar, New Jail Road, St. George Church, Kudal Nagar, Pasumalai, Alagappannagar, K. K. Nagar, and Therku Vasal. In Tirunelveli, I went to Xavier Colony, Sevalbary Road, Keelanatham, Thisayanvilai, Madathachanpadu, Pettai, Shanthi Nagar, Suvisheshapuram, Alagiyapandipuram, Melaratha street, Kongarayakurichi and Manur. I met many sponsors, and I received offerings and prayed for them. I met Maranatha Church Pastor and shared with him about the IBT

ministry. He asked me about the workers. I prayed for the marriage which has been fixed for the daughter of Bro. Moses.

Kindly pray for my promotional work and my family.

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Missionary: Bro. Lemon Chinchani
Mission Station: Kondapuri (Odisha)

Greetings to you in the loving name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. By the enormous grace of God, last month, I went to many villages and did missionary work.

Villages in which I met believers: I went to Thambasagi, Kondapuri, Ponduguda, Kosagamuda, Kumbarsahi, Thathiyamagi, Kuda, Nadiguda, Nabrangpur, Santhoshpur, Jathkandapur, Pambuni, Thembia, Kodinga, Bodomasigan, Thangiriguda, and Celipador Village, and I met many people and shared the gospel, distributed tracts and prayed for them. I insisted that only those who believe in Lord Jesus Christ can be saved. I conducted a marriage ceremony in the mission station. I did the work at Nanganal mission station Church. In social work, I helped the people who went to the hospital. When I prayed for the sick, God answered the prayer and healed the sick.

Other than this, I conducted Sunday services at Bondiguda, Kondapuri, and Celipada, and I also conducted Sunday classes for Children, Friday worship and Second Saturday Fasting prayers. Cottage prayer meetings were conducted at Santhospur and Bodomasigan mission stations.

Kindly pray for my missionary work and my family.

Promotional Staff: Bro. Paul Jayasudhan
Mission Station: Trichy (Tamil Nadu)

By the enormous grace of God, during last month in Trichy district, I went to Puthu, Shanthinagar, Thriuvaram, Lalgudi, Ezhil Nagar, Cantonment, Kumarapuram, Subramaniapuram, Kumar Nagar, Uthyampatti, Anna Nagar, Mannarpuram, Bell Township, Oil Mill Road, Kailasapuram, Srinivasa Nagar, Poomalai, Thirunavukarasu Nagar, Urayiyur, and Karur Road. I met IBT sponsors, received offerings and prayed for their families fervently. I met some independent church pastors, introduced the IBT ministries, and explained it. I met some CSI and TELC church pastors and asked permission for IBT promotional work, but they told me to get a permission letter from the bishop.

During house visits, I prayed with a burden for the sponsors, who were sick.

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Missionary: Bro. Sahaya Sweedon
Mission Station: Papanpalli (Odisha)

May the name of the Lord be glorified.

Last month, by the enormous grace of God, I was able to do all the work at the children's Home. After the annual examinations, schools were re-opened for the academic year 2023 – 24 on 3rd April, and students have started going to school.

Newly admitted students have started coming to our children's homes from the 10th onwards. After lunchtime, from 2.00 pm to 4.30 pm, students study their lessons during study hours daily. After the evening play time (leisure)

from 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm, prayer is conducted at the Campus and rooms. They did the gardening work with enthusiasm. In the month of April, we taught about the sufferings of the cross and explained it to the children. We went to Dornapal and Podia to purchase the necessary cooking items.

The building works of the new missionary home are in the finishing stage. Pray for the Children in IBT Children's Home, that they might study the Bible eagerly and bring glory to God through their lives. Kindly pray for my family to be blessed.

PRIDE? NOT FOR US

Life is not only acquiring fame and titles, is it not?

Some will forget themselves and those who are around them when they get the positions. In such a world, Basil lived a model life. He was a great scholar. He excelled even his mentors. He was an expert elocutionary. He had a noble heart for friendship. Because of his skill in elocution he became a Lawyer. Fame and wealth sought him. Many posts were offered to him. Friendship from all directions grew. But Saint Gregory was his only true friend and soul mate.

Pathetic will it be to get lost to the positions. Basil was aware of this. He detested falling as a prey to the temptations of pride. He even rejected many posts offered to him. He gave his

wealth to the poor and the sick, and for preaching the love and sacrifice of Jesus. Evangelism was his priority.

He gave up his profession as the Lawyer and gave in to be a hermit. He embraced the poor and rendered many helps to them. People gathered every day to listen to his preaching. He for the sake of the people became a preacher. Thousands were born again.

Beloved, do you want to live a selfless life like Basil?



ST. BASIL THE GREAT
330 - 379

From His Life-For our Life : God gives the grace to the humble. - Saint Peter

Into Potter's Hands : Lord, I pledge myself to serve you and to toss away the worldly pride.

For Meditation : Genesis 3-4, Psalms 3-5, Matthew 3-4

PLEASURE IN DEDICATION

Hawaii is a cluster of Islands in the Pacific Ocean. Molokai is a tiny Island in that group. When leprosy spread in the south Pacific Islands the lepers were lodged in this Island (Molokai), no one was there to attend to them. That was their end.

Those forsaken by men came to a conclusion that they were forsaken by God too. No one came forward to help them or to save them from the disease; the reason was the government order banning the re-entry to the main land of anyone who goes there.

A young man came forward in the year 1873, to help those sulking in distress and as a friend who wipes away the grief of the sufferer. He was Damien alias Jozef Damien De Veuster. Many prevented Damien. But Damien was strong in his decision. The scenes that met his eyes on his arrival were cruel.

They lived as a dead, horribly attacked by the disease, with sores all over the body. Puss was oozing from the wounds. Damien gave

them the hope to those lived hopeless. He built houses and Hospitals for those living in the streets. He became their solace in their despair.

One day when boiling water spilled on him he felt nothing. He was shocked. The friend of the leper became a leper. On the Sunday worship he praised saying "Lord Loves lepers like us". As the attack of the disease grew large he slipped into slumber leaving behind his friends of twelve years. People lost their friend.

It is noteworthy that the birth day of Damien who found the pleasure in dedication was born on this same day in 1840.

Beloved, are you ready to find joy in supplication?



DAMIEN DE VEUSTER
1840 - 1889

From His Life-For our Life : So far I was not one of you but now I am one of you.
- Damien

Into Potter's Hands : O God, give me a heart like that of Damien's
- a committed heart.

For Meditation : Genesis 5-6, Psalms 6-8, Matthew 5

Excerpts from
"The book of Soul Winners"

WANTED

1. Applications are invited from men with B. Sc., I.T., (Information Technology) qualification for Indian Bible Translators (IBT). Kindly send the applications to the following address. Please contact the mobile number noted below for further details.

2. Applications are invited from +2 passed male youths for promotional work in Coimbatore and Mettupalayam areas for IBT ministry. Kindly send your applications to the under mentioned address. For details, contact the mobile number given below.

INDIAN BIBLE TRANSLATORS

Civil Aerodrome Road, Coimbatore- 641 014, Mobile & WhatsApp: 90470 57414

NEED

1. One new two-wheelers is required as the old two-wheeler in the IBT office is frequently breaking down and maintenance cost is high. New vehicle costs Rs. 95,000/-.

2. We need 150 Nos. of Audio Devices of New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs in Toda language. The cost per one Device is Rs. 400/-. Total amount require is Rs. 60,000/- for 150 Nos.

Those who are desirous of supporting our varied ministries are requested to send their offerings to the foolowing banks through **ECS** or **Scanning the QR Code** through your phone.

1. STATE BANK OF INDIA

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Branch Code : 7231
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Branch Code : S107
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(We request you to send the details of the offerings sent by you to our IBT Office.

Cell Phone No. 90470 57414.

This will help us to send our receipt to you)

SCAN & PAY

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IBT RELEASED LITERARY BOOKS IN ENGLISH

The following English books written by IBT Founder President Rev. Prof. S. Panneer Selvam are available in our IBT Center, Coimbatore.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. WORD OF LIFE | Rs. 100/- |
| 2. INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE | Rs. 70/- |
| 3. DEFEAT THE DESPAIR | Rs. 100/- |
| 4. SEEDS FOR THE GOOD SOIL | Rs. 120/- |

Those who need the above books may kindly contact our office **Mobile No. 90470 57414**

PRAY! AND PRAISE!!

1. On the Tenth year Memorial Day of the IBT Founder on last 02.06.2023, The New Testament audio devices in Deshia language and the Mundari language New Testament book were dedicated and published in IBT Centre, Coimbatore. Praise God for the Deshia language audio devices may be distributed soon to these language-speaking people.
2. The New Testament in the Sambalpur language is in the finishing stage. Due to the changes in font size, we cannot give it for printing immediately. Kindly pray for this work to be completed without delay and for the printing works at the right time.
3. The Mundari language New Testament printing cost Rs.1,40,000/- (One Lakh Forty Thousand) was sponsored by Mrs. Annie, Perumanallur, Tirupur. Let us praise God for that and pray for the blessings and uplift of the sister and her

Send all your Contributions :

Cheques / DD / M.O. to

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family, who is eager that God's word should reach all people.

4. Praise God Mr. Isaac and Mrs. Girija Isaac who are working as missionaries in IMS and training our translators by conducting many classes to do the translation ministries speedily and excellently. Kindly pray that God would grant wisdom to each translator to do their works rapidly and flawlessly from what they have learnt.
5. On May 12th and 13th, IBT's Annual Fasting Prayer was conducted in IBT Centre, Coimbatore. Praise God for the prayers offered for IBT ministries, churches, and our nation and the three God's messages. Kindly pray for the extension of IBT ministries, the formation of many prayer cells and for youths to join the ministry.

Announcement for the Readers

If you are waiting to renew your subscription to the Saththiya Vaarthai magazine, we kindly request you to send Rs.100 /-through money order to the following address or the bank account mentioned below. Kindly contact and inform the IBT office if you send it through the bank.

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