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VAARTHAI

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

WORD OF TRUTH -
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MAGNANIMITY FOR MALIGNITY

We are living in a selfish world. Wherever we turn we hear the words - it is mine, it belongs to me, it is my right. Man always wants to keep everything for himself, it never willing to give it away or share it with someone else. Basically man is possessive and self-willed. We can easily see this selfish attitude in everyday life. For example, look at the people as they get into the bus. There are plenty of seats in the bus yet they stage a mini war while getting into the bus through the entrance. After getting into the bus, the fight continues for the occupation of a particular seat in the bus. If only one of them is willing to exhibit a spirit of magnanimity by saying, "you want this seat, OK you take this seat, I shall occupy a back seat", we could have easily avoided an ugly scene of fighting and quarrelling in public. If people could display this spirit of generosity and selfless attitude, our world will be a better one to live

and the thousands of pending court cases would disappear in a moment; many marriages would not have ended up in divorce; many communal clashes between two communities, as it happened recently in our South Tamil Nadu State resulting in the loss of many lives, could have been avoided. Everything in the whole world truly belongs to God and He is the real owner of all the properties in this world. We, the human beings, have rented them for our use for certain period of our life time. We are only tenants and trustees of all the properties that truly belong to God and God alone.

There was a sharp dispute about the ownership of a particular church building between two pastors in Tamil Nadu. Unable to find an amicable solution, they went to the court. The case went on and on for many months and years. During this time it seems

that God spoke to one of the pastors one day to withdraw the case and give the church building to the other pastor. He obeyed God's voice and withdrew the case. After a few years God blessed abundantly that pastor who withdrew the case with a spirit of magnanimity. God enabled him to build a church building twenty times bigger than the one for which he was once fighting in the court of law. Yes! When you are willing to give up your right with a spirit of generosity, God is bound to honour you. When one is willing to throw away the spirit of egoism, possessiveness and selfishness and put on the spirit of humility and generosity, God will raise him and uplift him above all the rest of the people.

Dear reader, do you have the spirit of magnanimity? Right now are you fighting for your right in court of law over some family properties, or 'church matters' or on some other 'Rights'? Because of this there is lot of tension and confusion among your family, your church and your community at large. It is true that you are fighting only for your right and you have gone to the court only for the public cause and for the sake of justice and righteousness. But it is good to remember that - there are three sides for every dispute - the first side is "Your right side" and the second is your enemy's Right side' and the third side is the 'Truly Right side'. Everyone involved in the dispute claims that he is right on his own. But remember that if you are willing to give up your right in the dispute, God will bless you later and that 'giving up' is not a mark of weakness and cowardice but it

shows your real spiritual strength. Such outward display of Christian character will certainly bring glory and honour to God.

Jesus Christ has given us many valuable and precious teachings on this topic. Ofcourse, in the Old Testament periods it was 'tooth for tooth', and 'eye for an eye' attitude but as against that Jesus has taught us many revolutionary truths especially in the sermon on the mountain. Jesus says, "you have heard that it has been said an eye for an eye and a tooth for tooth; but I say unto you, that you resist not evil - but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek turn to him the other also.

If any one will sue thee at the law and wants to take away your coat, let him have not only your coat but your cloak also.

Love your enemies, bless them that curse you do good to them that hate you; and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you (Mt. 5:38-44).

In the above verses, Jesus is urging us to exhibit three Christian principles viz., 1. We should not try retaliate even though someone might have really harmed us. Bless them that persecute you, bless but never curse them on any account (Rom. 12:14), 2. Be kind and generous. 3. Love your enemies and bless them that curse you.

The best way to measure the spirituality and piety of a Christian is to find out his attitude towards his enemies. Someone said "If you repay good for good, it is human; if

you repay evil for good, it is devilish; but if you repay good for evil it is divine". Dear reader what kind of attitude do you display towards your 'enemies'? Are you human or devilish or divine? To answer this question is a good self examination. In this month's message we are going to meditate on the theme, "Magnanimity for malignity". As we read the scripture we meet the following persons who displayed such spirit of magnanimity in trying situations.

1. Abraham's magnanimity towards Lot when there was a strife between them (Gen. 13:6-9).
2. Joseph's magnanimity towards his brothers who plotted to kill him (Gen. 50:18-21).
3. Isaac's magnanimity towards the Philistines when they filled Isaac's wells with earth (Gen. 26:12-22).
4. David's magnanimity when he spared the life of Saul's his arch enemy (1 Sam. 24:4-18).

1. Abraham's magnanimity towards Lot

Abraham said unto Lot, "Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and you; for we are brothers. Is not the whole land before you? If you go to the left side, I will take the right side or if you take the right side, then I will go to the left side.

And Lot lifted up his eyes and beheld all the plains of Jordan - well watered even as

the garden of Eden; Then Lot chose all the plains of Jordan (Gen. 13:7-11).

According to the records of the book of Genesis, God appeared to Abraham for the first time in Gen. 12:1 (i.e.) after he came and settled at Haran. But according to the accounts and narration of Stephen as mentioned in Act. 7:2, God seems to have appeared to Abraham well before he dwelt at Haran and told him that he had to leave his kith and kin that includes his nephew Lot and his own father. But somehow Abraham was reluctant for such a high-voltage obedience to God. Because Abraham was comparatively a very young man, then he was not willing to obey God fully. Someone said, the history of Israel nation was halted for a while because of partial obedience of Abraham. Our God is gentle God. He is a democratic God. He did not want to push the hard stuff into the throat of Abraham. So God decided to wait till Abraham learned things through hard way. So the first clearance for total obedience occurred at the death of his father. The Bible says, in the last verse of 11th chapter "Terah, Abraham's father died". And the 12th chapter begins with the statement, "Now the Lord had said unto Abraham; get thee out of thy country, from thy kindred and from thy father's house unto a land that I will show you". God's writing on the wall for Abraham was very clear and the message was unmistakable. That is, he must leave out Lot and his family. But still Abraham was not psychologically prepared to leave Lot behind. Still he was reading God's message in between lines and the message was a little blurred. So he took

Lot with him. He simply could not digest the fact that he could leave out his brother's son Lot. After all, when you are going to an unknown land, you always want someone your blood relation with you for your possible protection and safety in an alien country. Again, the progress of formation of Israel nation came to a grinding halt for some more years because of the unwillingness and reluctance of Abraham to obey God fully.

With such a back drop the only course left for God to separate Abraham and Lot is to engineer a strife between the uncle and the nephew. The strife between Abraham and Lot was slowly brewing up and rearing its ugly head more often than not. First Abraham brushed aside such a strife as minor skirmishes. But soon things started moving in the wrong direction, wordy duels between the servants of Abraham and Lot became hand to hand fight. Often tension was building up between the two camps. It was a big heart ache and mental agony for Abraham. Lot's wife must have played a key role in the separation of the two families. She must have often pestered her husband 'why do you always want to live under the shadow of your uncle Abraham. There are so many greeny and prsperous places where we can go and live independently'. Probably she was right - thought Lot. By this time, Abraham also started feeling the 'pinch' and must have regretted for keeping Lot very close to him. In Tamil there is a proverb 'Kitta Uravu, Mutrum Pahai' that means "Live very close to someone and pick up plenty of quarrels". This has proved to be true in the case of Abraham

and Lot.

So at last Abraham learned the lesson through hard way. Now the last hurdle that was preventing Abraham from obeying God totally, was removed. Lot was separated from Abraham. Then God appears to him and now only reveals His plan to him in full measure. The Bible describes their sepration as an important mile stone in the spiritual life of Abraham as follows.

And the Lord said unto Abraham after Lot was separated from him "Lift up now thine eyes and look towards the North, the South the East and the West". Arise and walk through the length and the breadth of the land and I will give it to you and to your descendants. (Gen. 13:14-16)".

God was just waiting for the separation of Lot before he could give Abraham such a far reaching and sweeping promises. But his separation with Lot was not so easy. Only at the instance of Abraham, Lot and his family accompanied him. Separation always generates heat and friction. Being a senior, Abraham had the priority and prerogative to choose a place of his choice. But instead he called Lot and told him, "Is not the whole land before you?". Separate yourself from me. If you choose the left side, I will go to the right side; if you choose the right side, I shall go over to the left side (Gen. 13:9). Instead of fighting over who will go where, Abraham exhibits an excellent spirit of magnanimity by asking Lot to select the place of his choice and liking. Now Lot lifts up his eyes and

chooses Sodom and Gomorrah - like a man boarding an ill-fated bus heading for an accident very soon. Little did Lot and his family know what was in store for them in Sodom. Lot could have left the choice to his uncle who was more matured and spiritual or at least could have approached him for advice where to go. Lot did none of these things. He took everything in his own hands and got himself in a most treacherous place. He knew fully well that the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and great sinners before the Lord. But he and his wife were attracted by the outward greenish appearance and prosperity of Sodom like the little insects that swarm around the burning tube lights and bulbs hitting them and harming themselves, finally dying. But on the other hand, God blessed Abraham abundantly.

Dear reader, is there a sharp strife and bitter fight among your family members over the division of properties? Or may be you are fighting with your neighbour on some issue and none is willing to finch an inch? May be you are fighting for your right. If this is so, God is speaking to you through this message. Just stop fighting. Give up your so called right and God will definitely honour you as He did to Abraham.

Where do all the fights and quarrels among you come from? They come from your desires for pleasures which are constantly fighting within you. So submit to God and resist the devil. Humble yourselves before the Lord and He will lift you up (Js. 4:1,7,10).

2. David spares Saul's life

Saul went into the cave and David and his men remained in the sides of the cave. And the men of David said, "behold, the day the Lord said I will deliver thine enemy into your hand, has come". Then David arose and cut off the skirt of Saul's robe. Also David stayed his servants and suffered them not to rise against Saul (I Sam. 24:3-7).

It was a classic example of someone falling into the very pit which he has dug for some one else. Saul was searching for David with the help of 3000 strong men. Before entering into the cave Saul never expected any one inside the cave because probably there was a cobweb over the mouth of the cave. David and his men could easily see Saul but Saul could not see David. It was a golden opportunity for David to get rid of his arch enemy but he decided to spare the life of Saul exhibiting a fine spirit of magnanimity. Did he not kill Saul but he refrained his own men from killing Saul. Even in such a situation, David was willing to pay respect to his master Saul. He was so godly that his heart missed a few pulses as he cut off Saul's skirt. I really admire this noble and saintly character of David in sparing the life of Saul. He never wanted to use short cut method to sit on the throne. He was never in a hurry but willing to wait patiently for God's time.

Not knowing what had transpired right under his nose, king Saul went out of the cave. David also ran out and showed himself

to Saul. He showed Saul the skirt cut from his robe as a proof of his innocence. David pleaded with Saul not to listen to the false report about him. This act of mercy and bravery on the part of David brought more conviction and a feeling of remorse and guilt on Saul. David preached a beautiful sermon to Saul on repentance. Ofcourse, it had an electrifying effect on Saul. As a result, Saul's stony heart was melted. He wept and left off his efforts to pursue David. We must not forget to note that Saul never bothered to invite David back to his palace. Saul openly acknowledged the uprightness and righteousness of David admitting his own fault and guilt. As a clever and shrewd move Saul took the opportunity to ask for mercy and kindness to his family and his descendants after David because the King of Israel. Saul's change of heart was only short lived and transient because Saul, after a few days, changed his mind and again started his hunt for David's head. Nevertheless, God used these circumstances at least for David's temporary escape. Psalm 142 was written by David on this occasion. Because David showed his magnanimity and repaid good for evil God raised him and gave him the throne.

Dear reader, are you facing any trying situation as David? Do you have any Saul in your own life? How do you treat him? Are you willing to forgive your enemy and show him mercy and kindness like David? I know it is very very difficult to forgive such a person.

I remember a real incident in a book called 'The seed must die'. In Korea, there was a communist uprising all of a sudden and many were put to death by the new communist rulers. Among those who were killed was the son of a Pastor. After a few years, the communists were overthrown and the past cases of ruthless murders of innocent citizens were re-opened. The communist youth who was instrumental in killing the son of the pastor was caught and put into the jail and was given death punishment. But then the pastor who lost his son, took a dramatic step. He begged the Magistrate to spare the life of the killer of his son. Not only that he was willing to adopt the killer as his son in the place of his slain son. His request was granted. It was too much for the killer who later became not only a Christian but a missionary pastor.

If thine enemy be hungry give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink and the Lord shall reward thee (Prov. 25 : 21, 22).

Now we exhort you, brethren, see that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good both among yourselves and to all men (I Thes. 5:15).

3. Joseph's magnanimity towards his brothers

Joseph's brethren fell down before his face and said, Behold, we are thy servants. Forgive the trespasses of thy brethren and their sin; for we did unto thee evil. And Joseph said unto them, fear not. You thought

evil against me; but God meant it good unto me. Now therefore fear you not; I will nourish you and your little ones and Joseph comforted his brethren and spoke kindly to them (Gen. 50 : 17-21).

If there was one youth in the Bible without blemish, it was Joseph. It was good for Joseph that he bore the yoke in his youth (Lam. 3:27). As a little boy Joseph was sent by his father to enquire about the well being of his brethren. But they returned evil for good. They conspired first to slay him but later they changed their minds and sold him to the merchant men. At a tender age of 17 he came to Egypt as a slave boy. He was falsely accused by Potiphar's wife and then put into Jail. Even inside the Jail, he was doing ministry by interpreting the dreams of two co-prisoners. One of them, now the chief butler, forgot Joseph and his help completely. Ofcourse, his remembrance would not have done any thing good for Joseph before the appointed time of God. We must learn to see God's wise plan and his wonderful providence both in the forgetfulness as well as in the remembrance of our friends in this world. But God never forgets us. Then finally at the right time, he was called by the king Pharaoh to interpret his dream. Virtually he walked from prison to the throne. A prisoner becoming Prime Minister of the country must have made an interesting head line news all over the country. Having assumed the office of the head of the state, he could have easily sent a word to his father's place but he did not. May be now he has become more matured. Both in prison and in Potiphar's house, he has

learned many valuable lessons in life. He has received many beatings and passed through many rough weather. This has greatly helped him to become robust and strong. As a small boy he was too naive and told his both dreams to his brothers and his father, landing himself in a pool of trouble. Now he has become more shrewd and wise. Otherwise he could not have ruled the whole country. Probably now he had learned how to control his emotions.

The whole of Egypt and the neighbouring countries were passing through a period of famine. I remember when I was a boy of 6 or 7, our country was passing through a period of acute shortage and famine in early 50's. Rice was hard to get and it was too costly and precious. Only wheat was supplied by the then Govt. Because of the famine, people were coming to Egypt for food. Because of Joseph's interpretation of Pharaoh's dreams, Egypt had a very good buffer - stock of good supply for many years. So people came to Joseph for getting food pledging anything and everything they had. Imagine for a moment how Joseph would have felt when his own brothers came and fell before him. Like a flash back, the dreams he had told his brothers many years back, came to his mind afresh. He uses Egyptian language to hide his identity from his brothers. I wonder how he was able to control his emotions after seeing his brothers in a foreigncountry. That is the kind of Joseph we see now, completely transformed and acting very tough - the innocent becoming an iron man - the need becoming a rock. This does not mean he was

a heartless man because often he hid himself and gave vent to his pent - up emotions by weeping to his heart's content in a lonely place.

When his brothers came to Joseph for the second time, Joseph played a fool's game and got them hooked and as a result, they were asked to leave behind Benjamin with Joseph. At that time Judah made a passionate and moving appeal to Joseph to release Benjamin and instead take him as a bondman in the place of Benjamin, and it had a telling effect upon Joseph the ruler of Egypt. It was Judah who changed the plan of his brothers to sell Joseph, these saving his life. Now he came forward to give surety for Benjamin at the cost of his own freedom. Joseph simply could not withstand the moving speech and generosity and unselfishness of Judah to suffer for others. Joseph could no longer contain himself and ordered all others to leave the room, because he did not want the Egyptians to know the sins of his brothers, after all their own family problems. Moreover, he did not want the Egyptians to see Joseph overcome by emotions and feeling.

When Joseph revealed himself to his brothers, they were simply dumb founded. Their unbelief was so complete that Joseph had to prove himself by revealing the fact of their kidnapping and selling him to an Egyptian. Now being at the age of 39, Joseph had not at any of his family members for 22 long years, truly quite a long period of home-sickness. When he revealed his identity, listen to his words, "I am Joseph whom you sold

into Egypt. Now, therefore, be not grieved nor angry with yourselves that you sold me; for God did send me here before you to preserve life. it was not you that sent me here but God" (Gen. 45:4-8). What a generous forgiveness of his brethren; what a comfort to those who had sinned; What a faith in God for Joseph to see God's hand not only in the plot of his brethren, but also in the incidents that closely followed, false accusations, physical torment and mental agony during the tender age of 17 to 30 years of his life. Joseph not only forgave his brethren but also showered his love and affection on them and whole heartedly promised to protect them and their families. What a spirit of magnanimity!

Dear reader, How is your life! Is there any one in your life who has really wronged you like Joseph's brethren? Just think for a while scanning the whole span of your past life. Yes! There are some people. Are you willing to forgive them whole heartedly? Many people are ready to forgive others but not to forget the past injury. We often pray to God, Lord as "forgive our trespasses against us as we forgive our trespasses against us". Do we mean it? God wants us to be as magnanimous as God himself. Remember that if you are not willing to forgive other's mistakes done against you, God will not and cannot forgive your mistakes done against Him. By refusing to forgive others' mistakes, you are cutting off the very bridge over which you have to walk.

4. Isaac's magnanimity towards the Philistines in the dispute of wells

Because Isaac had many herds of sheep and cattle and many servants, the Philistines were jealous of him. So they filled in all the wells which Isaac's father Abraham had dug.

Isaac dug the wells once again which were stopped by the Philistines. Isaac's servants dug another well and there was a quarrel about this also. So he moved away and dug another well. There was no dispute about that one (Gen. 26 : 14-22).

Apparently it was a case of jealousy. Isaac was living in the Philistine country. God blessed him. When God blesses some one, his neighbour is filled with jealousy. That is what exactly happened in the life of Isaac. The Philistine king Abimelech openly told Isaac, "You are becoming more powerful than us. So leave our country and go elsewhere". Isaac on his part had not done anything that deserved such a shabby treatment, that too from a king. The only reason was that God blessed him. You dig a well using your own money and in your own land and somebody comes and fills it with earth. And this happens 3 or 4 times. In such a situation, you will naturally get angry and get irritated but not Isaac. He as a man full of patience and he bore all the insults and ridicule heaped upon him by his enemies with patience and fortitude. Jesus said if your enemy forces you to go one mile, you must go 2 miles. But Isaac appears to have walked more than 3 miles with his enemies.

I remember an incident that took place many years back. One of my colleagues in

the Engg. College, was travelling in a private bus sitting in the front seat. At a particular place, one of the important political leaders boarded the bus. Usually whenever this 'big' man boards the bus, the front seat which my friend was occupying, will be offered to him by the conductor. So as usual, the conductor asked my friend to vacate the front seat and take one of the back seats. But there was no reservation and there was no reason why he should vacate. Initially he was reluctant but after thinking for a while, he decided to give up his right and take the back seat as a gesture of magnanimity and the bus started moving. You know what happened? After travelling a few miles, the bus met with an accident and the 'big politician' sitting in the front seat in the place of my friend, died on the spot with other receiving minor injuries. You can easily gauge the feelings of my friend who was sitting at the back, safe and secure. What a price for showing patience and magnanimity in an unfriendly atmosphere and provocative situation. The big politician literally fought with my friend, not for his seat but for his appointment with death. What a tragedy! What a pity!

Do not pay back evil with evil or cursing with cursing; instead pay back with a blessing (1 Pet. 3:9).

Love your enemies, bless them that curse you; do good to them that hate you and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you (Mt. 5:44).

Dear Christian friend, you have finished reading a message on 'Magnanimity for Malignity'. In your own life it is not going to be far from now that you will be finding yourself in the place of these four people whom we met in this column handing over magnanimity in the place of malignity. How are you going to react when you meet people like Lot, the selfish and greedy man; Saul - the blood thirsty killer always on the death trail day in and day out; Joseph's brethren - your own blood relations plotting to sell you and kill you; the Philistines -the jealous and bragging neighbours. How are you going to handle all these different kinds of people whom you have to meet whether you like it or not. The one common formula that will help you, is be thou magnanimous, no matter how malicious and ferocious your enemies are. Follow the foot steps of Abraham. Let 'Lot'

take quite a lot of your land and you be content with what is left over. God will bless you as abundantly as Abraham. Then remember David. He had the opportunity to kill his arch enemy. But he never wanted to be an opportunist. He waited for God's time to sit on the throne. He spared the life of Saul on two occasions. Also be thou as kind and generous like Joseph towards his brethren and God will bless you also like Joseph. Someone may do injustice to you openly and blatantly as they did to Isaac. But be thou patient and dig another well. If you do all these and the above, then God will bless you one hundred fold as He did for Isaac (Gen. 26:12) and like Joseph (Gen. 49:22). God will make you a fruitful bough near a well whose branches run over a wall.

- Rev. Prof. S. Panneer Selvam

NEWS LETTER

Dear readers in Christ,

Greetings in the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

"Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." 2 Timothy 1: 6 and 7

God has given each of us different kinds of gifts. Apart from using the God given gifts for the glory of the name of God, we should also develop our individual abilities constantly. Without burying the talents given to us by God,

we should identify them and use them whenever and wherever we get opportunities.

We do not get golden opportunities in our lives very often. They may come to us occasionally. If we ignore the opportunities that knock at our doors, they may go to some others. Therefore, we should use our talents as and when we get chances.

Four years have passed since the Founder President of Indian Bible Translators Bro. Rev. Prof. S. PanneerSelvam physically left us. As long as he was alive he used the talents given to him in the service of the Lord with full vigour.

Apart from using the talents given to him, he trained others also to use the talents given to them as he himself did. He helped others to identify the hidden talents in them and encouraged even the timid persons to use their talents in the service of God. Many are there who were benefited by IBT ministries. However, many of us simply enjoy the operation of talents by others, while sitting passively glued to our chairs. I exhort you to start using the God given talents in you actively. God is there to help you.

During the last few months I had been in America. There also God guided me to do His ministry. Especially, the Lord showed me new ways of knowing the spiritual truths and getting revelations, which I could share while taking Bible study in America. When we study the Bible with great interest sitting all alone, we can feel the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Those who participated in the Bible study testified that they could delve deep into new spiritual revelations and could listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit speaking to them. When we participated two times in mission meetings in a Methodist church, my daughter and I were used by the Lord to explain about the various IBT ministries. Those who participated in those meetings said that the functioning of our IBT ministries posed a real challenge to them. In addition, the Lord helped me to share God's messages in House prayer meetings and to pray for others. The Lord also guided me to introduce IBT ministries to many people.

Last month the experts from Bible Society in Bangalore came over to our head office and participated in the checking of some of the portions of the entire Bible translated into

Sourashtra, Baduga, Chhattishgarhi and Bhojpuri languages. Please pray with burden for the early release of our much expected new Bible books in these languages. In May the New Testament in Mundari language was checked in Coimbatore head office. Pray for the early printing of the New Testament in Sambalpuri and Mundari languages. Also pray for the missionary work and translation work in the mission fields, for promotional work and social welfare services and also for the work in our head office.

On 23rd April Bro. Dinesh gave God's message in the CSI church in Gowndanpaadi. On 1st May an one-day youth meeting was conducted at IBT head office in Coimbatore. On that occasion Bro. S. Rajasekaran gave God's message. On 12th and 13th May annual fasting prayer meeting was conducted in our head office. In this meeting we prayed for all the ministries in India, for the top leaders like PM and other ministers and for various needs of our country including national economy, safety and rain. On 14th May Mrs. D. Sudandira devi distributed the certificates to the ladies who had completed tailoring training in Ooty. Moreover, on 21st May Bro. S. Rajasekaran gave God's message at OBC church in Ooty and the congregation prayed for IBT ministries. We thank Pastor. Victor Franklin for giving us this opportunity. On that occasion special offering was taken for IBT ministries. We praise the Lord and thank you all who are supporting IBT ministries by your prayer and offerings. We pray for you and your family and may the Lord bless you.

In the service of Christ
Your sister. **D. Sudandiradevi**

ONE-DAY YOUTH MEETING CONDUCTED BY INDIAN BIBLE TRANSLATORS - COIMBATORE



Secretary Bro D. Vasu is explaining
about IBT ministries



A time of worship



Bro. Rajasekaran is sharing
God's message



Scriptural questions were asked and
Prizes were distributed to the Youth

By the abundant grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, an One-day Youth Meeting of IBT was conducted in IBT head office, Coimbatore, from 10.00 am to 4.30 pm on Sunday the 1st May 2017. Including the youth 97 persons participated in this meeting. It is praise worthy.

This IBT Youth Meeting was started at 10.00 am with opening prayer by IBT Co-Founder Mrs. D. Sudandiradevi.

By special, sweet songs, IBT God's servant

Bro. Rajan and his choir boosted the morale of the youth.

Bro. A. Christopher, the co-ordinator of IBT youth meeting, welcomed the gathering and summarized each performance interestingly.

IBT secretary Bro. D. Vasu clearly shared about the various IBT ministries and their functioning, which were sacrificially formed according to the ministry vision given by the Lord to IBT Ministry Founder Rev. Prof. S. Panneer Selvam.

Bro. Samuel, translator in Irula (Velliangadu) language, explained clearly about the difficulties he encountered during the Bible translation in Irula (Velliangadu) language.

Then Bro. Chandran, translator in Baduga language, shared his experiences in translating the New Testament and the book of Proverbs in Baduga language spoken by the Baduga people in Nilgiri district. He also shared about his keen interest in the missionary ministry among these people.

By way of encouraging the youth, Bro. Rajasekaran shared the first message in the morning session based on John 15:16 - "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you."

Brother. Rajasekaran shared this message to the youth who came with great expectations, stating that they should bear the fruit expected of them by the Lord. He taught on the following clearly:

1. Salvation experience and repentance
2. The importance of the operations of the Holy Spirit, how the Lord's protection and deliverance are essential in the life of the youth who have once experienced salvation.

This challenging message was based on practical life experiences.

At that time Pastor. Stephen of Annur church inspired the youth with a powerful prayer.

All who attended the meeting were served delicious food. Then Bro. Manoharan arranged a skit calling 3 youngsters and assigning them the roles of spirit, soul and body. This was based on Luke 12: 15 - 21 related to the warning given by Jesus, "Take heed and beware of

covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses." This skit kindled the spirit of the youth.

The dance performed by the brothers and sisters of Annur church was enjoyed by one and all. The inspiring solo song of Sister. Jessie Joy in Malayalam enthralled the entire audience. Bro. Dinesh, IBT staff, introduced some knowledge oriented games which touched the heart of the youth.

Bro. Paul Jeyasudan, IBT full time staff, conducted a quiz programme based on the scripture. 20 questions were asked and 20 youngsters who gave the correct answers were awarded prizes. It was a great encouragement for the youth.

Bro. Rajasekaran's second message in the second session was a challenging one based on the scripture and appealing especially to the youth. He shared this message citing the lives of Joseph as a youth, Moses, David, the servant girl in Naaman's house, Mary the mother of Jesus and showing how the Lord did great things in their lives. The message posed a challenge to the youngsters.

He changed the world's saying "today's youth are tomorrow's leaders" and showed on the basis of biblical characters that "today's youth can be today's leaders". This became a challenging truth engrained in the hearts of the youth.

All those who came to the meeting thanked and appreciated IBT treasurer Mrs. Navamani Sekar for her sacrificial services.

Finally, the meeting came to an end with the prayer and benediction by Pastor. Stephen of Annur church.

In the service of Christ
D. Vasu, IBT Secretary.

FIELD NEWS

Missionary : Bro. ReubanChinchani

Mission field : Kukkundu (Uttar Pradesh)

By the abundant grace of the Lord, last month I visited the following villages and proclaimed the gospel: Deoriya, Navalpur, Badurpur, Parasia, Sirima, Thippiradiyu, Chonda, Aggaoma, Kola, Dhanvatti, Pravuna, Moosayilla, Saura, Sankariktha, Karavundi, Mushvuliya and Chonda. In my personal evangelism, I met the following persons: Gopal, Sumithra, Gayathri, Kamal vatti, Saritha, Ushadevi, Chindan, Ramji, SivanandRakesh, Kirubasankar, Siddanath, Pavan, Vishnu, Rashmani, Kamalavathi and Jithendar. Among them Jithendar is attending Sunday worship services regularly. He said he would take baptism soon. Pray for this person. In our church 100 believers are regularly participating in Sunday worship services and they are blessed. Bro. Gopal was suffering from fever severely. We went to his home and prayed for him. God gave him good health. Please pray for the growth of my ministry.

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Translator : Sister. Elizabeth

Mission field : Gudalur (Tamilnadu)

Language : Pania

Greetings in the sweet name of Jesus Christ. By the abundant grace of the Lord, last month copies of 93 translated pages were taken as CD. This includes OT Genesis chapters 1 to 50 and Exodus chapters 1 to 10. Moreover, keying-in in the computer for chapters

21 to 30 was completed. BSI checking is in progress. I did missionary work visiting the following villages and shared the good news about God's kingdom and the powerful miracles of the Lord. The villages are: Poornavayal, Nethajinagar, Koththarvayal, Thettamula, Pudurvayal, Narimula, Melabalan, Kozhimula and Paniya colony. Many are falling sick due to over heat. We prayed for such people. Pray for their growth in Jesus' love.

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Missionary : Bro. Amarbar Nag

Mission field : Katni (Madhya Pradesh)

May the name of the Lord be glorified. By His great grace last month I could do the Lord's work visiting many villages with safety. I visited the following villages and distributed tracts and New Testament and shared the love of God. The villages are: Dugai, Amegatta, Paththuvar, Chattapadi, Thaivar, Kanki, Kannar, Kaththukuri, Harvar, Imilia, Bamhari, Panali, Amonaali, Hamakal, Amatla, Analikar and Saipur colony. Some of the villagers listened to the Word of God keenly. I listened to the family problems faced by the following people and prayed for their prayer points. They are: Bilamani, Dinesh, Bimlesh, Lachmanan, Atlesh, Hariprakash, Premsankar, Rajamani, teacher Mrs Pushpa, Pooranammal, Gaya Prasad, Moorat, Kamalhari, Ramanirajan, Sumailibin, Rampikari, Usha, Keshav, Rginth, Shivaram, Vijayalikhmi, Karuna, Thivarikka and Prasad. Many are participating in the Sunday worship services. Pray that these people should be saved in the real sense.

Translator : Bro. Narayan Pooria
Mission field : PuriaGudi (Odisha)
Language : Kondaporja

Greetings in the name of King Jesus. I praise God who has been guiding me in my ministry all along.

Last month I translated in Kondaporja language the OT portions 2 Kings 12.1 to 1 Chronicles 2:38. By way of my missionary work, I met a person named Kandullikutand shared with him and his family the love of Jesus Christ on the basis of scriptures. I encouraged them and prayed for their family problems. These days he is sharing his many problems with me on the phone. I answer his many questions about the love of Jesus and pray for him. Please pray for his growth in the spiritual life and for my ministries as well.

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Missionary : Bro. Sanjaikumar
Mission field : Chattarpur (M.P.)

Last month I visited the following villages and did my missionary ministry. The villages are: Bindiapuram, Soradevi, Hattikan, Ayodhyabasti, Newbangi, Handi, Nagamroad, Muraba, Panjivatti, Gauthamnagar, Gauriya road and Pannakadu. I met the following persons and shared the gospel with them and distributed 50 tracts and 25 books of New Testament in Hindi. They are: Lagan, Khuswan, Ramilanjivar, Kalicharan, Deepak Anuragi,

Lagan Balmuki, Anilvarma, Viyappalmuki, Bharatsingh, Harla, Aasa and Rameshwarpatel. Some of the literate youngsters started reading the given material joyously.

I conduct Sunday worship services at Sararoad area. About 10 persons attend this service. The family of Johnson are ready to take baptism. Please pray for them.

The fasting prayer meeting was conducted on second Saturday at Chattarpur IBT church building. Pray for IBT ministries.

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Translator : Bro. AsariaMadiri
Mission field : Puriagudi
Language : Koya

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ abide with you all. Last month I translated in Koya language the portion Luke 1:1 to 7:28. Whenever I got time, I visited many villages and shared the love of Jesus Christ with the villagers. I shared the love of Jesus Christ explaining scriptures and giving tracts to literate youth. Especially a youth named Joseph aged 27 years has been suffering much for the past few months because of cancer. Unable to meet the surgery expenses in a private hospital he was remaining at home. I told him about the miracles performed by Jesus Christ. I met him after some days and learnt that he has been healed and he is going to his job now. I praise God for this. Please pray for my ministry.

PRAY & PRAISE

1. Last month on 1st May an one-day youth meeting was conducted at IBT Centre, Coimbatore. By this meeting 53 young men and women and 20 IBT representatives and translators were blessed. Praise the Lord for this. Pray for the ministry of Bro. Rajasekaran, former Headmaster of Mani Higher Secondary School, who gave two very valuable and touching messages during this meeting and also for God's work in the hearts of those who heard the messages.
2. Pray for the early release of the gospel books in Saura, Koya and Kuvi languages which has not been done so far. Also pray for the translators to do their translation work with greater zeal and burden.
3. Last month the senior Bangalore BSI translator Rev. Nag came over to IBT Centre, Coimbatore, and staying here from 7th May to 12th May, he checked the translated New Testament in Chambalpuri and Mundari languages. Praise God for this. Pray for the speedy completion and release of the New Testament in these two languages.
4. Praise God for the award of certificates to the following ladies who successfully completed their training in IBT centre, Rohini. They are: 15 ladies who completed 6 months tailoring training, 8 ladies who completed 6 months computer training and 32 ladies who completed 2 months basic computer training, in all 55 ladies. Pray that all those who underwent the above training should apply their knowledge and do jobs for the financial uplift of their family .

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