

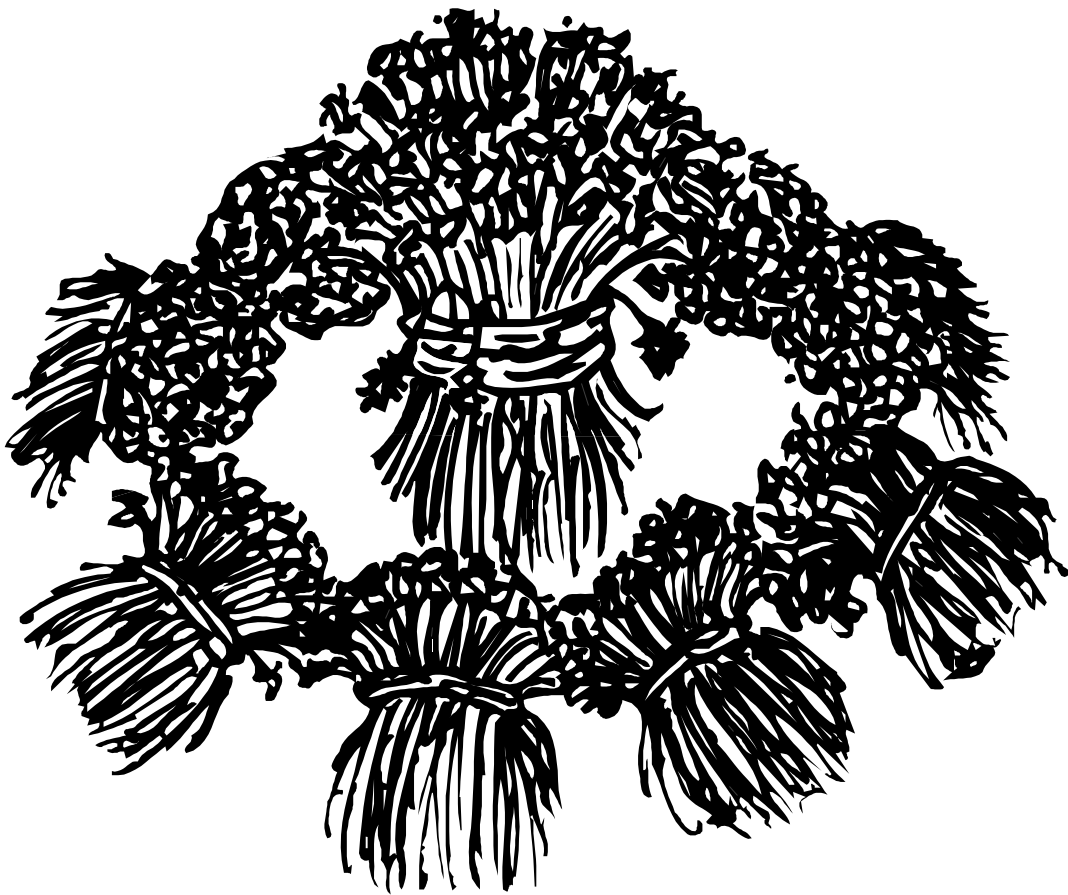
YEAR OF HARVEST

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# Blessing

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**THOUGH THE BEGINNING MAY BE SMALL  
THE END SHALL BE GLORIOUS!**

*(Job 8:7)*

# What is Harvest?

*Dr. Mrs. Lilian Stanley*

My father was an agriculturist who owned a farm. Harvest time used to be a time of great mirth and extreme joy. He would have a radiant beatific smile and eyes that danced merrily. Observing the harvest year after year, I have gathered some important facts, which can be related to evangelism.

## **1. Harvest means Multiplication!**

“Then Isaac sowed in that land and reaped in the same year a hundred fold; and the Lord blessed him” (Gen 26:12). The most encouraging fact about evangelism is that the seed we sow proliferates. It is always a hundred fold, sixty or thirty, never zero. A soul-winner should never forget this principle. There is nothing so de-energizing than counting the seeds we plant.

Think of Abraham. God said to him, “I will make you a great nation, I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing” (Gen 12:2). Where was the blessing? The sight of billions of scintillating stars, vaulting across a velvety night sky didn’t excite him about God’s promise. He was growing older and older without dandling a child on his knees. He was brimming with unbelief when God talked about Sarah being mother of nations, a son and kings of peoples. He fell on his face and laughed (Gen 17:15-17). When God did remember His promise it was not a dozen children, just one. Isaac was his first ray of hope.

The one had only two; then twelve; seventy (Ex 1:5). Over six lakhs (12:37), an ever expanding nation, then the quantum leap—all over the world! From the small stream of Jewish faith

the vast rivers of Christianity flows today. Abraham did not live to see the lakhs. That’s the picture of a soul winner. First he experiences barrenness, diffidence and unbelief; then a discouraging one and then two. That’s why the Bible admonishes, “Let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not” (Gal 6:9). The more we sow the more we reap. We sow seeds but bring in sheaves! (Psa 126:6). Even if every thing seems hopeless, don’t give up. If you persevere the magic is sure to happen. The sown seed shall result in a harvest of unbelievable proportions.

## **2. Harvest means Reproduction!**

“Whatever a man sows, that he will also reap” (Gal 6:7). Each brings forth its own kind. We do not sow wheat and reap groundnuts. The harvest depends upon what we sow. One need not be an intelligent person to win souls. God uses the uneducated and fools. But the sower must carry seeds which is the Word of God. If you sow the wind, you’ll reap the whirlwind (Hos 8:7).

Sharing our testimony is good, but it should be impregnated with the Word of God, which has life. Only life can bring forth life. Empty stories and arguments bring forth nothing. Be prepared with a message anytime for unexpected invitations. Let there be a solid written down message inside your Bible always. That’s to be shod with the preparation of the gospel.

If you are invited to share your testimony or preach a sermon, do not go unprepared expecting the Holy Spirit to inspire you on the spot. Spend time on your knees. Sweat over the Bible.

Receive a definite message from God and then go to sow. You'll be richly rewarded. There are many who talk ill of other ministers of God in the pulpit. Some are experts in narrating their own experiences in detail. People feel empty when they leave after such a sermon. A person, serious about the mission should preach Christ, and Him crucified. Exalt Christ. Let there be no ulterior motive in your preaching to get people to give to your ministry or add to your congregation. Preach the "Word," in season, out of season! (2 Tim 4:2).

### **3. Harvest means Tears and Joy!**

"Those who sow in *tears* shall reap in joy. He who continually goes forth *weeping* bearing seed for sowing, shall doubtless come again with *rejoicing*, bringing his sheaves with him" (Psa 126:5,6).

Neck deep in my fifties, I look back at the time when my husband and I decided to serve the Lord fulltime. The mission decided on a monthly salary of Rs. 750/- for my husband. Money, dresses, non-vegetarian dishes and the luxuries of life were always in short supply. We have slept on newspapers in railway platforms, alternately keeping awake to guard the things. As a woman I have faced the sting of male put down (not to mention the female put downs!). My husband would be taken to the dais with a greeting and handshake and I would be left alone to find a seat for myself somewhere. My husband would be made to dine on the table and I would be requested to sit on the floor with children. Rejected, criticized, condemned, swatted off like a fly. But I felt, to give in to bitterness would be to thwart the more distant goal. For me these seemed greater trials than the problems we faced while living in various States of India and

tribal villages. There were language barriers, culture shocks, malarial attacks and travel dysenteries. But today, people and letters bring us a daily dose of sunshine.

The spirit of some nascent workers today seeking comfortable five star ministry gives me the ulcer. The word 'Sacrifice' rattles their spine with fear. Like a boat on dry land they stand on the shore, never having the courage to go deep sea fishing. Volunteerism has reached the endangered species list. People want to be paid for every thing. Today's young people should understand that making history is rarely a safe slippers-by-the-fire-job. All the early apostles and disciples suffered, some to the point of death. Many could not rejoice here on earth. The result? Christians all over the world! The sacrificial spirit of Jesus had rubbed off on them. Have a mind to suffer and you will not lack the joy of harvest.

We die and we are sown, not buried (1 Cor 15:42). People cry but heaven rejoices. There are tears because of enemies, tares, thorns, loss, suffering; but the end result is joy as in the case of the lost son, lost coin and lost sheep. Our cup of joy will be full.

### **4. Harvest means Labour!**

The quintessence of harvest is hard work. Harvest is taking back what we once lost to the devil, and it's not going to be easy. Satan has illegally taken by default what rightly belongs to God. So harvest is hard battle. You may sincerely desire a harvest. But desire alone won't help you into your running shoes. You need to labour. Jesus urged His disciples to pray for "labourers" to be sent into the harvest (Mt 9:38).

The sower must sow by the wayside, stony places, thorny ground and good

ground. He must sow beside all waters (Isa 32:20). If he sows sparingly he will also reap sparingly (2 Cor 9:6). He must water, weed and watch. He must rise up early and sit up late. He must be prepared to give up certain legitimate entertainments so as to be a high achiever.

“He who observes the wind will not sow, and he who regards the clouds will not reap... In the morning sow your seed and in the evening do not withhold your hand; for you do not know which will prosper, either this or that, or whether both alike will be good (Eccl 11:4,6). Because of the element of uncertainty we need to work and overwork. Apostle Paul had a schedule that would leave most people gasping. People call him a daredevil, but he wasn't. He was simply a man whose limits were much greater than most others. “He who CONTINUALLY goes forth...” (Psa 126:6). I have never seen an ant sitting or lying down. Some times it carries food bigger than itself. The secret of success in a single word is perseverance. If you can't get through one door go through another — or make a door!

It is not enough to be a dreaming visionary. You must be an intensely practical hard working realist. We knew a strapping 25 year old who had committed to serve the Lord. When we asked him what he was doing, he answered that he had written to the United States for admission in a Bible College. Two years later he was still loitering, waiting for admission! Proceed with your plan but in the meanwhile go to the ant and learn.

There is no dearth of slogans and songs for harvest. Ross Perot says, “The activist is not the man who says the river is dirty. The activist is the man who cleans up the river.” Let's

get down to work. “He who sleeps in the harvest is a son who causes shame” (Prov 10:5). The one who buried his one talent was too lazy to work. The master rightly called him a slothful servant (Mt 25:26). Laziness is a sure recipe for failure. If you want a glorious harvest you can't just sit back and hope it will happen; you've got to make it happen. Do not waste time in TV, sleep, over-indulgence in computer games and vain chat. The wisdom of life consists in the elimination of non-essentials. Grab every opportunity. Talk to auto drivers, co-passengers, patients waiting with you. Walk or bicycle vivaciously to villages. “The lazy man will not plow because of winter; he will beg during harvest and have nothing” (Prov 20:4).

The three-toed sloth moves so slowly that creepers grow on its back. The analogy is that some harvesters are so slow that the tentacles of the world encircle them and cripple them. Slothfulness is downright dangerous.

### **5. Harvest means Hope!**

“He who ploughs should plough in hope, and he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope” (1 Cor 9:10). Ploughing without hope is... wisdom. After pouring ourselves out to the furtherance of the harvest, the sheer hardness and testing can grind us down. Disappointment, ill health and failure can cause doubt and depression. If we have no hope of a harvest we cannot plough or sow or water. Constant discouragement will rob us of all enthusiasm. Hurdles will snuff out our spirit. But hope is the impetus that kindles our heart to go on labouring against all odds. He shall 'DOUBTLESS' come again with rejoicing (Psa 126:6).

King Solomon puts it in an interesting way. Bones are formed in the

womb. You can't see it but you know it. You can't explain it, nevertheless it's happening. You know for sure after nine months she will deliver a bonny baby. "You do not know the works of God who makes everything" (Eccl 11:5). That's hope. Once you sow the Word of God in somebody's heart, baby Jesus starts growing there. It may take a long, long time to be seen but as sure as a baby grows, the word grows.

Columbia, the space shuttle that ended the life of Kalpana Chawla—the most complicated machine ever built got knocked out of the sky by 750 gms of foam. It can happen to your harvest if you lose the bolt of your life called hope. "Not slothful in business, fervent in Spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope" (Rom 12:11,12). See, it is hope that's our kick. It is this sanguine hope that wipes away the tears of a soul-winner filling his heart with gladness. Hence, never allow the torch of hope to be extinguished. The harvester's life-jacket is hope.

#### **6. Harvest means Reward!**

"Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labour. For we are God's fellow workers" (1 Cor 3:8,9). Put the emphasis on the conjunction and read it once again. We are not a poor, weak team. We have a strong and mighty team worker, the Captain of our team. He is the Lord of the Harvest. He Himself works with us. Then where is failure? We shall have a bumper harvest and sure reward. "The Lord working with them" (Mk 16:20). As He works, He keeps an eye on us. He knows how we work and what we deserve. Our reward is according to our labour. No hard working farmer will be disappointed. "The labourer is worthy of his wages" (Lk 10:7).

Again I want to remind you of Paul's admonition to the Galatians: "Let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart." Temptations to become tired and lose heart will be plenty. You may be struck down by illness and catastrophe, assailed by grief and failure, treated unfairly or betrayed. Never ever give up your good works. Times of toil and tears will, without question be richly rewarded.

#### **7. Harvest means God's Work!**

Paul states explicitly, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase" (1 Cor 3:6,7). It is this attitude that made headway in Paul's ministry. It is not unusual for us to beat our chest like Kingkong when our ministry flourishes. Like Nebuchadnezzar we trumpet, "Is not this great Babylon, that **I** have built for a royal dwelling by **my** mighty power and for the honour of **my** majesty?" (Dan 4:30).

We can be blinded by the light of our success. Without God we cannot do anything. Man minus God is zero. Let Christ be enthroned as the Lord of the Harvest and we the labour class people. Exalt Him in whatever you do. Let the I-must-decrease-He-must-increase spirit pervade and possess you.

Jesus said, "Therefore pray" (Mt 9:38). Prayer galvanizes harvest. Since He alone can do it we have to cry to Him to reach out to cut-off people, to penetrate closed doors, for a bountiful harvest. Commit your grandiose plans to Him in intercession. Elijah prayed and the heavens gave rain (Js 5:18). "Ask the Lord for rain in the time of the latter rain. The Lord will make flashing clouds; He will give them

showers of rain” (Zech 10:1). The watch word of the early Church was, “God is able.” Isaac sowed and reaped a hundred fold because the “Lord blessed” him (Gen 26:12).

It is time for the latter rain. Let’s bend our knees, fold our hands and lower our heads. Let’s gather the people to pray for an overflowing harvest. Let us plead the Lord for a revival. Have a target and form as many prayer cells as possible. Avail yourself of the unlimited life challenging potential of prayer. Teach your Sunday School children to gather and pray for the harvest once a week. Let students pray. Let brides and grooms intercede. Let the old people have prayer clubs. God is not confined to our dimensions. He will most certainly give us the increase.

The D day is at our door step. Communism is running out of business. People are disappointed wherever they turn to. The count down on the world has begun. Christians on the march. Put in your sickle and reap the golden grains, ripe and ready for harvest. d

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of compassion in Him? Can’t He see our sufferings?” When others passively attribute it to fate or an enraged god/godess, a Christian reacts in a radically different way. A Christian considers it a privilege to take part in the cup of sorrow, for if he suffers with Him, he shall also reign with Him.

In fact, thanking God in distress opens miraculous ways to get out of it. Very few people know this formula though there are several instances in the Bible vindicating its successful application. When the people of Ammon, Moab and Mt. Seir came against King Jehoshaphat, the flabbergasted king seeks the counsel and the help of God. Before the army, he sends a group of men singing, “Give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures forever” (2 Chron 20:21) and wins the battle in style.

Asaph sings, “He who sacrifices thank offerings honors me, and he prepares the way, so that I may show him the salvation of God” (Psa 50:23). How often do we grope in the dark looking for a way out of the problems instead of thanking God?

Finally, for a healthy Christian life, thanking God for everything is an inevitability. Apostle Paul reiterates this in his letters to the Churches. The first century town of Colosse was a perfect breeding ground for cults. The letter written to the Colossian Church is a long list of suggestion, advice and prescription to remain steadfast in Christ. He says “And whatever you do, in word or deed, do it all in the name of Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him” (Col 3:17). Today, every post-modern mind has itself become a breeding ground of cults, justified by the individual’s experiences. Hence, Paul’s prescription holds good to us post-moderns too. Gratitude is the only experience that merges the past (nostalgic of God’s goodness in the previous days), the present (reflected through every deed and word), and the future (as an affirmation of faith) into a unified whole in the act of worship. Is gratitude just ‘another Christian virtue?’ Isn’t it much more than that? b

## **“Where are the other Nine?”**

*Miss T. Sugirtha*

(First Prize winning article of the writing contest)

I remember the day Mrs. & Mr. Chapel of New Zealand came to our house. Being a fourteen year old, I was excited to have foreign visitors home. When I thought of making some omelettes, I asked Mr. Chapel if he would like to have one. “Oh yes. Thank you,” he said. “Shall I add some onions?” “Oh yes. Thank you.” “Would you mind if I add some pepper?” “Oh no, Thank you.”

I was amused at his thank yous. If a host has to be thanked for the pepper and the onions for courtesy’s sake, it isn’t an eccentricity to thank God for everything right from the air we breathe to the scooter that has to be kicked several times before it gets started.

The oft-quoted incident on this subject is the exemplary gratitude of the single leper who came back praising God, threw himself at the feet of Jesus and thanked Him. It is followed by the poignant questions of Jesus, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?” It seems that the ratio of the people who promptly thank God to those who are oblivious of it is invariably 1:9, even today!

It is a haughty and a selfish soul that runs dry of thankfulness. Such a soul believes that it deserves all that has been given and hence doesn’t find any need to thank. Gratitude becomes synonymous to humility at this context.

Gratitude is more than a feeling. It consummates only when an expression is given to the felt thanks. A very simple form of expression is just to say, “Thank you Lord.” The letters make sense when uttered in complete realization.

Gratitude impels a person to give. The kings of the Old Testament period offered thanksgiving sacrifices during important days and as a mark of post-war celebrations. As

realization is to a word of thanks, so is the right attitude to giving. 1 Chronicles 29 records King David and his subjects giving generously for the construction of the Lord’s temple. In the following prayer of praise and

thanksgiving, probably king David’s final prayer, made in the presence of the whole assembly he says, “But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.” What an attitude! When we understand that we have received something that cannot be repaid, we are impelled to give beyond what we think is our capacity to give. It is then we give those things, which we treasure the most, the best ones. Thus gave Abel and God accepted his offering. Just a feeling of contentment would not suffice; a sense of unworthiness is essential. When the offertory bag is brought to the pew, it is better to check the attitude rather than the purse for the change.

Gratitude takes a person to a higher level of commitment and obedience. God promised Abraham that he would make his descendants as many as the stars in the heaven. Abraham had to wait 25 long years to hold the promised son in his arms. How grateful the old man must have felt embracing the miracle! One day the same God intervened, “Hey Abraham, offer your one and the only son, the one you love as a sacrifice—burnt sacrifice.” Early the next morning Abraham was travelling towards Moriah with Isaac and enough wood for burnt offering. How could Abraham be so stoical? Did he believe at the heart of hearts that the God of his trust would save his son?

Yes, Abraham ‘knew’ the God he worshipped and trusted Him. In fact he “reasoned that God could raise the dead” (Heb 11:19). In spite of his faith Abraham was expected to make a decision. When he decided to sacrifice Isaac he had already decided to sacrifice his joy, his hopes and his dreams that he had cherished in Isaac. This is exactly the higher level of commitment and obedience born out of gratitude.

Dr. Ravi Zacharias, a scholar in Christian Apologetics, in *Does God Exist?* claims that without the tremors created deep down the heart by overwhelming thankfulness, it is impossible to worship—the very purpose for which man was created. He demarcates the different levels or the stages of gratitude. It is worth elaborating on those levels he has mentioned.

The level one or the initial stage is being thankful for what one has received. Thus goes a song:

*“Count your blessings, name them one by one;  
Count your blessings, see what God has done;  
Count your blessings, name them one by one,  
And it will surprise you what the Lord has done.”*

A man who doesn’t count his countless blessings cannot be grateful. When the Israelites failed to count, they nurtured grudge (a poor substitute for gratitude) against their God. Counting the blessings is not an annual ritual but a daily necessity, a main ingredient of prayer. It was a habit for Daniel. He did it three times a day and even the King’s decree could not stop him. Apart from the physical or the material blessings that are perishable, God “has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing” (Eph 1:3). This includes the blessing of being chosen to be holy and blameless in His sight (Eph 1:4), the redemption through the blood of Jesus, the free gift of salvation (Eph 1:6,7) and the Holy Spirit given as a deposit for the day of redemption (Eph 1:13,14). Will a thousand tongues be sufficient to give thanks? What more can a God give the mankind that is much akin to the grass of the field? In this

world, our expected blessings can never supersede the given blessings. All that we need is an awareness of what has been given and time to count them!

The second stage is being thankful for something that one hopes to receive. Every human being irrespective of the nationality, class or creed lives with a hope of a better tomorrow. It is the pursuit of that hope which makes one to live and not merely exist. This hope sometimes is a hope against hope. Yet, thanking God before the hope comes to fulfilment takes us to the next stage of gratitude. On the threshold of performing a miracle, Jesus thanked God, and called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out” and the dead man came out. Here, the thanksgiving precedes the miracle and it is an affirmation of the faith.

As a chosen people, a royal priesthood and a holy nation, we Christians have a lot of things to anticipate and rejoice, brimmed with gratitude. One day Jesus shall come; now we who see Him as a poor mirror reflection shall then see Him face to face and know Him fully. He shall say, “Well done, good and faithful servant!” Amidst a host of angels singing “Hallelujah,” He shall crown us, dress us in white, give a new name and make us seated in the throne. Praise the Lord!

Though it sounds like a fantastical Hollywood scene, all of these shall come to pass. This glorious anticipation of a Christian should not stop with the thrill it gives, but pour out into multitudinous praise and thanksgiving. Being grateful for what is to come enables one to press towards the goal with renewed energy.

Thanking God under pain, pressure, persecution, rejection, fear, shame, shortage and loss is something only a Christian can do. This is the third level, and when a Christian does so it comes as a shock to the pagan world. It is the way of the world to thank someone when some goodness is received or expected. When a tragedy hits, people question, “Is there a God? And if yes, is there a tinge  
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# FAST TRACK ARROWS

*D. Ilango*

The Bible says, "As arrows in the hand of mighty warrior; so are the children of youth" (Psa 127:4). This verse spells out a proof for God's higher estimation of the youth and greater expectation from the youth. How great is the privilege to be arrows in the hands of the Lord of hosts!

For an arrow, sharpness gives swiftness and brings about an effective thrust on the target. How to maintain this sharpness?

## **1. CHARACTER**

According to Thiruvalluvar, a great tamil poet good conduct and character of a person is more highly esteemed than the very existence of that person. One may rather be a dead man than to live without good conduct and character.

It is no doubt that multifarious forces like electronic media and print media have great influence over the youth. But those, who desire to be used by God, should guard themselves against perversion and uncleanness. Misuse of internet, though in secret, cannot be hidden from the eyes of the Lord. Dear ones, a strong backbone is a must to say 'No' to pervert or pornographic audio and video pitfalls which come disguised under the name 'Lore'.

Is talking with the members of the opposite sex a forbidden ground for us? This is an often asked question by the youngsters. Ofcourse one can talk with a member of the opposite sex but dignity and decorum must be maintained during the conversation. One can even converse with a member of the opposite sex when there is no one to check but it must be in the same manner how one might talk to his/her friend in the presence of his/her parents. The 'touch factor' must totally be avoided. Shun circumlocution conversation for good.

Smoking, which was started as an unintentional joke, becomes a habit and continues through one's life. It can hardly be given up. Do you remember the sotry of the bag and the bear? Once there was an alarming flood in a river. Many household articles and other things were floating along the water. Two brothers salvaged some of the things that floated near the bank. The elder brother tried to salvage a big black bag that was floating away from the bank. He jumped into the river and caught hold of the big black bag and exclaimed, "It is not a bag...a bear!" The younger urged the elder to let go the bear and come back. The elder brother wailed, that the bear would not let him go and went down the river. Beware! Bad company would make pigsty your dwelling place and husk your food (Lk 15:11-16). "Remember your creator in the days of your youth" (Eccl 12:1). He will give you good company and guide you in the right path.

## **2. PARENTS**

Do you aspire to receive a blessing from the Lord? Is increasing longevity your earnest desire? Then "obey your parents" (Eph 6:1). Give due respect to your parents eventhough they are very poor. Do not hesitate to introduce your parents to your friends when they visit you. Make a firm decision to take care of them when they grow old (Prov 23:22). The Bible warns that those who despise their parents will become blind (Prov 30:17).

## **3. TEACHERS**

Like candles, teachers burn themselves to enlighten others. Like ladders, they help their students to rise high and high in the society but they remain stable. The only reward they get is happiness when they hear that their student has become a dignitary.

Besides teaching, the teachers produce good citizens. Do not fret with anger when the teacher punishes you because he uses

punishment as an instrument to mend you and to make you an useful and productive citizen par at excellence (Prov 10:13; 22:15; 27:5; 29:15).

Request your teacher to clarify your doubts in the lessons. Greet your teacher with due respect whenever you meet him. Giving nick names to your teacher is not fair. Homework should be done at home only. Do not procrastinate and avoid last minute hurry.

Settle down in your class room five or ten minutes before the scheduled time. Your exemplary character, holiness and faithfulness must identify you as 'unique' among other students.

Only a few outstanding students are believers. When unbelievers and idolators are good at their studies, why not you? Didn't Daniel excel others? (Dan 1:20). Putting your heart and soul in your studies and taking all other necessary steps will help you to complete and surpass others. Don't you know that questions will be asked from your text book only? The text book is given into your hands an year on six months before the examination. As such how couldn't you secure 'cent percent'?

#### **4. CAREER**

While selecting a career pray for God's guidance. Let His will be done. So, instead of seeking Government jobs only, with His direction, you may join private concerns too. Though bribing is a prevailing practice, be determined neither to bribe nor to receive bribe. Be active in whatever you do. Do it with full involvement. Unconcerned negligence must be avoided. If you are entrusted with some work, after a thorough investigation, do your best so as to surpass the expectations. Obey your boss, even though he is not a good man (Eph 6:5; Col 3:22; 1 Tim 6:1).

#### **5. MARRIAGE**

This is a very important phase of life. Start to pray for a suitable life partner from now. Whom should I marry? Never marry an unbeliever on any account (2 Cor 6:14-18). To

marry an unbeliever why should one fast and pray!? God will never deviate from His word—The Bible.

Select your life partner who will suit the financial condition of your family. Don't be an extravagant spendthrift. If both the partners are equally educated and flexible, mutual understanding will flourish which paves the way to oneness of mind and happy married life. Do not fall for the colour of the skin (Prov 31:30). Do not run after money (1 Tim 6:9). 'Virtue' is the most important factor (Prov 31:10). Parents should help their children not to have any concern regarding caste difference.

May the Lord of hosts make you a sharpened arrow in His hands. Amen! **f**

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answer. It is foolish to expect a 'Yes' from the Lord always. 'Wait' and 'No' are also answers given by the Lord. What lesson is taught here?

#### **h) Holiness**

"Without holiness, no one will see the Lord" (Heb 12:14). There was a steep fall in the life of king David who was testified to have been a man after God's own heart. He, who should have gone off to war, walked leisurely on the roof of his palace. Succumbing to lust, he sinned against man and God. The illegitimate child was smitten by God. Even though he knew that it was the punishment from God, he fasted and prayed senselessly and hence his effort was fruitless. God would not accept Abraham's prayer—a prayer against the will of God—"If only Ishmail might live under your blessing" (Gen 17:18). "When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures" (Js 4:3). Isn't it absolutely true? "If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened" (Psa 66:18).

Doesn't this intrinsic question, "Who knows?", teach us to build battlements and ways of escape from total destruction? Let us respond positively! **f**

# Who Knows?

*E. L. Ephraim*

“Who knows?” This thought-provoking question is found in three different places in the Bible. A disaster was foretold in each of those three occasions. I was reminded of this when the Tsunami struck on the 26th of December 2004. What my wife and I saw on 27th December in Nagapattinam—cruel scenes of the calamity, unimaginable destruction, heart broken wails of the remnant people and pungent smell of death—hasn’t left our heart till now. Bro. Parameswaran, a victim of the Tsunami had lost three of his children and seven of his relatives at the wink of an eye. Holding me tight, with tears rolling down his cheeks, he asked, “Had we been warned of such a disaster, we might have prayed! How come there is no such prophet here?”

The Bible says, “Surely the Sovereign Lord does nothing without revealing His plan to His servants, the prophets” (Amos 3:7). Hadn’t God foretold Noah about the great deluge and the near extinction of all that were created? (Gen 6:17). In turn Noah warned the people of his time about the deluge (2 Pet 2:5). Before the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah God said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do?” (Gen 18:17). Didn’t the pleadings of Abraham save the Lot family from destruction along with the people of Sodom and Gomorrah? Joseph foretold the “Seven year famine” and made suitable storing arrangements during the time of plenty. This ingenious subsistence plan helped the people to sustain throughout the period of famine (Gen 41:28-31). Agabus, through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world (Acts 11:27-29). Didn’t prophet Elijah prophesy about a period of drought? (1 Ki 17:1). Eight lessons drawn from the three Books, where the title of the article occurs in the Bible, are given here:

## **I. JONAH**

From the mouth of a gentile king came the question “**Who knows?**” (Jon 3:9). When

the Ninevites heard about the ensuing doom, “Forty more days and Nineveh will be overturned” (Jon 3:4)—a role model reaction followed. “When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, He had compassion and did not bring upon them the destruction He had threatened” (Jon 3:10). As a rule man should repent but why God? What acts of the Ninevites made God repent (change His mind)?

### **a) Faith**

“The Ninevites believed God” (Jon 3:5). The first and the foremost reason that saved the gentile Ninevites from total destruction was that they believed and put their faith on the living God. An usual derisive taunt is that whether a compassionate God would annihilate people! But we never think that a just and righteous God cannot but punish the unjust and the unrighteous. Whenever a problem arises we always calculate and depend upon our financial strength or physical power. There are very few Christians who can testify with faith, “I know whom I have believed” (2 Tim 1:12). During trials and tribulations, the present generation of believers chase after ministers of God or influential people for help instead of God. The Bible says, “O Lord Almighty, blessed is the man that trusts in You” (Psa 84:12). Jesus said, “If you believed, you would see the glory of God” (Jn 11:40). God allows many a chance to taste and enjoy these promises in our lives. But Jesus raises a question, “... When the Son of Man comes will He find faith on earth?” (Lk 18:8). To worship and serve God one must have a real, deep, active and steadfast faith on Him. How steadfast is our faith?

### **b) Fasting**

A royal decree was promulgated in Nineveh. “Do not let any man or beast, herd or flock, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink” (Jon 3:7). Even the king and his nobles were

not spared. Observance of fasting together with humbling their hearts, afflicting their bodies brought a breakthrough. Yes, fasting is a very good exercise to the heart. It is good for the body, mind and soul too. The Ninevite fasting brings a thrilling excitement even today. It is no wonder that the chastisement of man's heart that brings the body, mind and soul under control, moved the heart of the Lord. Jesus fasted for 40 days before the commencement of His earthly ministry. Moses, the trusted friend of God and the author of Pentateuch, fasted more than once for 40 days. Only fasting and prayer brought victory in the lives and ministries of the people of God such as Ezra, Nehemiah, Jeremiah and Daniel. Spiritually robust Christians are those who say 'No' to the stomach and 'Yes' to satisfy the hunger of the soul.

### **c) Humility**

"... All of them from the greatest to the least put on sackcloth.... the king rose from his throne... covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust... man and beast be covered with sackcloth..." (Jon 3:5,6,8). These clearly show how they humbled before God. Sackclothing is a derogatory dress that symbolises humility. The first factor that brings down complete healing and rich blessing to the land is humility (2 Chr 7:14). Mary, "the blessed among all women" received the privilege to become the mother of the Lord Jesus by humbling herself (Lk 1:48). Jesus invited the heavily burdened people, saying, "I will give you rest" (Mt 11:28). A lesson on discipleship follows immediately after this invitation. "I am gentle and humble in heart" (Mt 11:29). To get eased from any tension, to get relieved from any burden and to enjoy the rest and get refreshed one must learn to humble himself. Jesus humbled himself and carried this obedience to the extreme of death (Phil 2:8). Humility precedes honour (Prov 15:33). Moses, one of the highly esteemed leaders in the Bible, was "more humble than any one else on the face of the earth" (Num 12:3). "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble" (1 Pet 5:5). "The Lord has brought down the rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble"

(Lk 1:52). Shall we please the heart of our Master by humbling ourselves?

### **d) Prayer**

People were urged to "call on God" (Jon 3:8). Prayer moves the arm that moves the world. Many don't fast while praying; so also many don't pray while fasting. It's a pity that many do not spend more time in prayer even though they usually fast once a week. It is neither meaningful nor fruitful to just starve and continue to do the usual routine work in the habitual way without spending much time in prayer. "During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverent submission" (Heb 5:7). Prayer brings victory. The praying man is the victorious man. Prayer saves us from destruction and disaster. "Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops" (Js 5:17,18). Oh! Dear ones, if your wandering legs had not brought you success, why not try bent knees? Prayer is a personal relationship with God. It's communion divine. It is not just a process of begging for something. Habitual prayer warriors cannot but pray. How about us?

### **e) Repentance**

"When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he had compassion and did not bring upon them the destruction he had threatened" (Jon 3:10). The only factor that brings down complete healing and rich blessings to the land is to turn away from the wicked ways (2 Chr 7:14). The pinnacle of christian principles is repentance. The content of the first and even the last message of Christ is 'repentance'— "Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Mt 4:17). "Repent" is the message of the thunderous preacher, John the baptist (Mt 3:1,2). Frequent meditations on Jeremiah's repeated admonitions like "Repent," "Turn back" etc. will cleanse, heal, strengthen and

beautify the soul. The repented Ninevites escaped the wrath of God. The repented thief received a promise to be with Jesus in paradise. The repented Peter was made the strong pillar of the church. Paul repented with a contrite heart and he was made the apostle to the gentiles. Repentance brings rich rewards. Sin and holiness can never be co-travellers. "One sinner destroys much good" (Eccl 9:18).

## **2. ESTHER**

The next occurrence of "Who knows" is in the book of Esther. Mordecai, a man of God, while admonishing Esther asked her, "**Who knows** but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?" (4:14). To prevent and stop cruel Haman's deceitful plan to kill the Jews, who were scattered among 127 nations from India to Ethiopia, prayer served as the only weapon. Observance of fasting for 3 days brought a miracle. One can learn many spiritual lessons from this passage.

### **f) Initiative**

Being challenged by her cousin, Esther rose with full vigour, started to act with full zeal and progressed with intense force. Once started, she went full steam. Many of us have the starting problem. Someone should push the car to start its engine. The hour has come to rise against the evil. Jesus had to push His disciples when He miraculously fed 5000 men with 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish by saying, "Give them something to eat" (Lk 9:13). "Do you have anything to eat?" "Cast your net on the right side of the boat" (Jn 21:5,6). Look at the persuasive deeds of Jesus to bring Peter and his friends to their senses. "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you" (Isa 60:1). "And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber" (Rom 13:11). Initiative precedes daring and courageous acts. Infringing the statutory law Esther went forward to meet the king. Indeed a fruitful daring act risking her life! The golden sceptre was held out towards her.

"Until I, Deborah, arose, arose a mother in Israel, the villages of Israel were desolate and lay wasted" is another similar incident (Judg 5:7). Isn't it time to rise and act so that, 'the Lord shall give that which is good' to his people? If not us who? If not now when?

### **g) Sacrifice**

The devoted and daringly sacrificial statement of Esther—"If I perish, I perish" (Esth 4:16) brought a new turning point in the land for good. Cost sparing discipleship is a waste by itself. Not the blessed status of being a queen, nor the safety of the well protected palace but the enlightenment received by Esther—"I, Esther, had been highly placed with a privilege of being a source of blessing to my fellow Jews and I had to serve as a fortress to protect them and a force to deliver them from destruction"—sowed the seeds for a turning point. Of course success was imminent. We can find the same kind of sacrifice in the lives of two great servants of God. "But now, please forgive their sin; but if not then blot me out of the book you have written" (Ex 32:32), pleaded Moses. "For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers..." was Paul's solicitude for Israel (Rom 9:3). Many were ready to redeem others at the cost of their lives. Now a days professing 'candle stick discipleship' has almost become non-existent. The Good Shepherd gave His life to save His sheep. Likewise shall we arise and fill up the gap so as to stop the destruction that is inflicted on humanbeings.

## **3. II SAMUEL**

Thirdly we find the same question "**Who knows?**" in the book of 2nd Samuel (2 Sam 12:22). Fasting and prayer were part and parcel of this incident too. But the Lord's answer was different. What the Ninevites received was a magnificent deliverance. For the Jews of Sushan death wails were turned into jubilation. Contrary to the above, king David received an incriminating and adverse

*(Contn. page 10)*

# HARVESTERS' FAMILY CAMP 2005

*Suganthini Saravanan*

(A brief report about the national camp for families of BYM supporters, 12-15 May 2005)

Blessing Youth Mission conducts Revival Camps every year, mostly, based on the theme for each year. The year 2005 being the Year of Harvest, a family oriented programme was organised for the partners who regularly support the ministry of BYM so as to inspire and equip them to effectively witness for Christ as families. About 850 participants inclusive of men, women and children were mightily blessed in these three days' **Harvesters' Family Camp** conducted in the Blessing Campus of Sitteri Hills, Tamilnadu, the first mission station of BYM.

Amidst the scorching sun and the unbearable heat waves, the aromatic cool air of Sitteri Hills extended a pleasant welcome to all the participants who made their way from Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Orissa and from the various districts of Tamilnadu. The colourful flags all over the campus, the mango trees full of mangoes and the serene setting provided a conducive atmosphere for the camp. The tireless and hard work of the missionaries under the leadership of Mr. J. Karunakaran for more than two months in ground arrangements illuminated the hearts of the participants. A refreshing shower just before the commencement of the camp prophetically reminded God's promise, "*There shall be showers of blessing.*"

In his preparatory message Mr. E. L. Ephraim directed the participants to the theme of the camp by focusing on the three families from the Bible. Dr. M. Arthur John, the Chairman of BYM dedicated the camp to the glory of God, calling the audience' attention to Nehemiah's dedication service with an emphasis to have the spirit of holiness, joy and worship as a preparation for the dedication service. He also crisply pointed out the purpose of the gathering. Next morning, Mr. E. L. Mathansingh highlighted the precious role of the Family Altar. The charismatic messages brought out by Mr. Y. Paul Dinakaran, the Coordinator for

Revival and Prayer on "Faithfulness in Family Life" and Mr. A. Lionel, the General Overseer on Relationship between Husband, Wife and Children' led the participants to a thorough heart searching which resulted in a genuine restoration of relationships.

The evening sessions were colourful with the cultural activities of the participants from the various parts of India. The drama enacted by the staff and children of Daniel Thomas School, Chennai championed the cause of the Christian family virtues.

The following day dawned with a special outpouring session of the Holy Spirit, led by Mr. Y. Paul Dinakaran. Many were anointed with the Holy spirit for the first time. Also, the participants received a reviving and refreshing sermon on the importance of fruit of the Spirit, which activated the spiritual nerves and injected a thirst for bearing fruits into the blood stream of the harvesters. The exclusive counseling sessions for husbands and wives separately handled by Mr. A. Lionel and Mrs. Minvelli Sapphire were rewarding. Congratulations to Mrs. & Mr. Vedanayagam of Gudiyatham who got the first prize in the "Ideal Couple Contest." The question & answer session conducted by a panel of leaders brought clarity on various practical issues.

The guest speaker Mr. Patrick Joshua, of FMPB, shared the importance of intercessory prayer and motivated the harvesters to be primarily prayer warriors. The concluding message "What God expects from a Christian Home?" gripped the hearts of the harvesters to move out with the challenge to influence the length and breadth of this huge country singing,

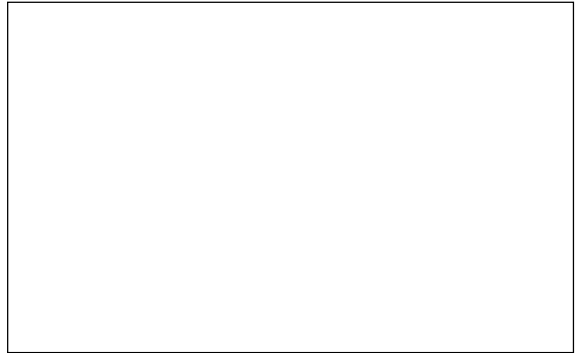
*Bringing in the sheaves, bringing in the sheaves!  
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves!*

Many thanks to all those who prayed fervently, contributed generously and labored quietly for the success of the camp. **f**

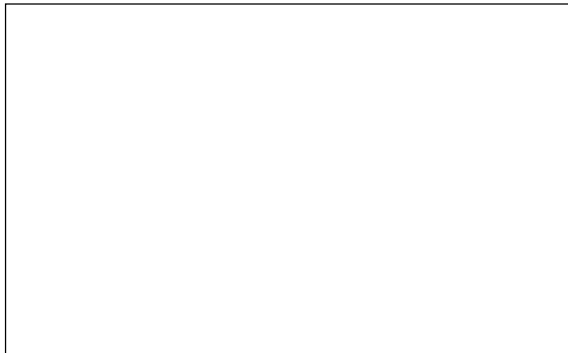
# HARVESTERS' FAMILY CAMP 2005



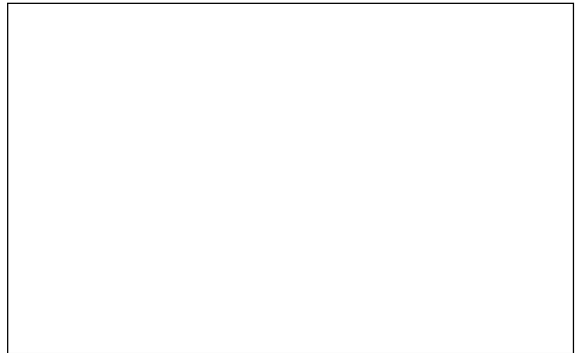
*The Venue*



*Preaching of the Word*



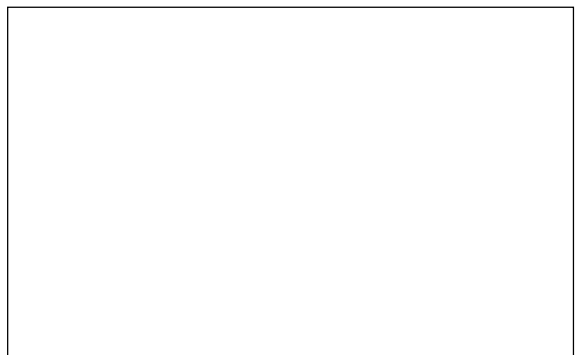
*Participants*



*Separate session for Women*



*Ministering to Children*



*Separate session for Youth*



*Holy Spirit Baptism*



*Drama on Family Life*

# News from Fields

Compiled by E. L. Mathansingh, Field Coordinator

The Blessing Youth Mission has stationed over 300 missionaries in 13 States of India, namely Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chattishgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, for revival ministries and cross-cultural missionary evangelism leading to church planting in churchless places. The news of various fields is compiled here for PRAISE and PRAYER.

## ANDHRA PRADESH

Â Praise God for the contacts Ramayamma, Rajanna, Gangunaidu, Thadu, Appaaro, Kotamma, Ramalakshmi, Srennu and Gopiseti. Pray that God may bring them from darkness into His marvelous light.

Â God has enabled to publish one more Blessing book—*Don't Kill Religion* in Telugu. Pray that God may bless the churches in Andhra Pradesh through Blessing literature.

Â Harsha, a student contact is helping in Sunday school ministry and missionary work enthusiastically. Pray for his spiritual upliftment.

Â Pray for Asha Rani's safe delivery and Mrs. R. Chinnamudu the mother of missionary Applasamy who has an infected leg.

Â One of our well wisher's daughters Suneela and Aneela are deaf and dumb partially. Their parents covet prayers for divine healing and their marriage settlement.

Â Muthyala, Sreenivasa Rao, Demundu, Kanta, Achayamma, Chandra Rao and Sanyasamma have backslidden in their faith. Pray for their repentance.

Â Praise God for Kalavathi and Ram who are getting ready to fulfil the righteousness of God.

Â Pray for the power manifestation of God upon the following: Kumari Prasan (BP); Lathamma (Swelling in the legs); Bhagyamma and Asha (Arthritis); Tirupati and Gandhaiah (Alcoholism).

Â Pray for the household of Samson and Christopher in whose house missionary P. Selvam is regularly ministering in Vijayawada.

## ASSAM

Â Praise God for the opening in Nagaon town. 42 youths were blessed by the one day retreat held in the Baptist Church. 50% of the participants decided to say 'yes' to Jesus in their lives. Pastor Goldsmith's cooperation was commendable.

Â Bir, one of our staff sold Rs. 11,000/- worth of Blessing literature in the Full Gospel Church of Shillong in Meghalaya.

Â One of our contacts couple, Kishore Kumar-Konica lost their two little sons. Sister Konica is participating the prayer cell conducted by missionary Ruby Gnanapragasam and in the regular hospital ministry.

Â Missionaries Stephen Dhanaraj and Gnanapragasam visited Kohima and Dimapur cities in Nagaland to organise the Blessing Literature Programmes. Praise God for the open door! Pray for the systematic arrangements in this strategic State.

Â Pray for the divine healing in the lives of Issac (Suffering from blood disorder) and Pradeepa (Burns).

Â Missionary Leence Joel underwent a special training in presenting the gospel both efficiently and interestingly to youth, organised by Cross Fire Charitable Trust.

## GUJARAT

Â Pray for Kumbar, Mookapa, Mostia, Kokrambar, Nivatha, Hastic, Ganpath, Dilip, Hetelben, Chayaben, Snahelben and Kanchibhai who have received the Good News gladly.

Â In Gartha village a night meeting was conducted, where missionary Malarselvan shared the Good News to 150 people. Praise God for the 45 persons who took a definite decision to follow Jesus and 6 people who were anointed with the Holy Spirit.

Â 6 young people have accepted Jesus as their Saviour in Davda prayer cell. Pray for God's guidance to organise a one day retreat.

Â A special prayer meeting was conducted in Nadiad in which Mr.S.Wilson the State Coordinator of Kerala delivered the message and encouraged the partners to labour for the furtherance of the Gospel.

Â Pray for God's enablement to release the book, *Frank Answers-Vol 1* in Gujarati.

Â Missionary Shadrach married Stella Mary. Congrats! Pray that this couple may serve the Lord like Aquila and Priscilla.

### **JHARKHAND**

Â The Lord of the Harvest has brought Alok Dhas, Ashish Das and Tirkey into His fold. Praise Him!

Â Our missionaries visited Adara and Ghato housing colony and distributed Blessing books and cassettes for Rs. 1600/-. They also shared the gospel to 50 people in Adara.

Â 16 of our gospel contacts in Godakhar are liquor addicts but they are showing interest to know more about Jesus.

Â Anjan, Nitesh and Deepak of Marhata were healed from Eczema through prayers.

Â Pray for Abhishek, Masih and Samad who have fractured their bones in an accident.

### **KERALA**

Â In an one day ladies' retreat held in kannamoola Mrs. Sakunthala Israel and Mrs. Vimala Daniel challenged the participants to actively involve in His Kingdom work, like Esther and Deborah.

Â Pray for the Christians who attended the 3 day revival meeting held in Bethel CSI Church Swamiarmadam. Mr. J. Wilson one of our partners delivered God's message.

Â Mrs. & Mr. S. Wilson introduced Blessing books and enrolled new subscriptions for magazine in Aluva area. They also shared the Word of God in Evangelical Prayer Fellowship and Prayer Partners Fellowship in Nanthancode.

Â Our Malayalam translator Mr. Benjamin Moses ministered God's Word for 10 days in a Workers Training Programme organised by Love Army Crusade in Korakpur.

Â Pray for a suitable house for our missionary couple Jesuraghavan & Sumathy to reside in Kottayam area.

### **KARNATAKA**

Â Our missionaries shared the Good News to Narayan, Shoba, Gouramma, Nishad, Nasin, Savita, Sangeeta, Arati, Sita, Channamma, Sridevi, Shaiven, Shanthavva, Chandrasekar, Mahantesh, Lingappa and Mahesh. Pray that God may open their eyes of understanding to know the Truth.

Â 60 people participated in the Volunteers Training Programme organised by Equip India in Dharwad, in which missionary couple Regunathan-Vasanthi gave the message on soulwinnig and evangelism.

Â Shoba is threatened by her husband because of her faith; she covets your prayers.

Â Praise God for the new believers in Nagawa village, Neelavva and Chandravva who are testifying the Lord to their fellow villagers.

Â In a whole night prayer conducted in Soundatti, 7 believers enthusiastically attended and 120 people participated in a 3 day fasting prayer held in Yellapur. The devil trembles to see the weakest saint on knees.

Â Sumangala, an orphan boy lost his only sister recently. Our God is a comforter and care taker of the poor.

Â The Lord reestablished the ministry in Ramapur through the prayerful efforts of our missionary Subanand family.

Â Pray for God's guidance and provision for purchasing a land in Kathijapur for Church construction.

Â Due to fear of idols and threatening of relatives Malpuri is procrastinating to obey the Lord with an all out commitment.

Â Praise God for His enablement to complete the construction work of the Church in Jamkandi. Thanks to all the donors.

## MADHYA PRADESH

Â Praise God for the interest shown by Dubai, Ramu, Peetham, Nannubai, Ramlal, Ramvathy, Gancheti, Niju, Rammilan, Nonibai, Suthiyabai, Halle, Dasi, Pappu and Kunathanlal to understand the goodnews, which they have received gladly.

Â 250 people watched the *Jesus* film in Barguah village and 1200 people in 6 villages of Deori area. Pray for a good harvest.

Â Vacation Bible Schools were fruitfully conducted in Katni, Jalgaon and Barchai villages in the month of May. Pray that children of all these villages and adjoining villages may respond to His precious Word.

Â The lady missionaries of Madhya Pradesh gathered for two days of fasting and prayer in Sagar in which Mrs. Lalitha Mathansingh exhorted them to be "Fruitful Vine."

Â Rajaram, Deenadayal and his wife Janaki have decided to follow Jesus. Pray that God may bring joy and harmony in their family.

Â 13 boys boarding in Blessing boys hostel have successfully finished the final exams. The parents' meet conducted in Shahgarh was fruitful. Pray for the needs of the forthcoming academic year.

Â Our congregation in the villages of Narayanpura and Taparian are growing spiritually and numerically. These worshippers need a suitable place for regular gathering and worship.

Â In an one day **Love Joy** family retreat conducted in Sagar, 39 families were blessed through the ministry of missionary couple Mathansingh-Lalitha. The support and cooperation of local pastor Rev.Ephrim and other lay people were commendable.

Â Missionary Duke Jeyaraj preached the gospel to 1000 youth in Tirumalisai, near Chennai and challenged them for holy living. Pray that the hearers may yield their heart to the Word.

Â Praise God for Janaki, Sadu Ram and Asha Rani who have decided to follow Jesus.

Â 30 seekers attended a follow up meeting held in our center in Jabalpur. Pray that they may become disciples.

Â Pray for the healing of Mrs. Soma's husband from jaundice and for Miss Suna to get a suitable life partner and a job.

Â The ministry among the youths of Tribal hostel and P. S. M. hostel are rewarding. Pray for God's wisdom to missionary A.Soni, who is doing the follow up.

Â Pray for the health of missionary Michael Singh who has to undergo a surgery for Hernia.

## MAHARASHTRA

Â Praise God for Ram and Gunabai who have joined the Church.

Â Prajakta Daware our Sunday school child prayed persistently for her father to be delivered from alcohol addiction. Praise the Lord, now her father is a free man.

Â In a major fire accident in Mahad, people of Katkari community lost their houses and household things; pray that concerned government authorities may take necessary steps and cater to the basic needs of the people immediately.

Â Pray for the salvation of Divakar, Arun, Bharat, Krishan, Umesh, Ganesh and Ajit who are showing keen interest in the gospel.

Â Praise the Lord for Vaishnavi who was healed miraculously after earnest prayers of our missionaries; she is a helpful channel to reach the Kohli samaj.

Â Mangal Karak lost her husband recently; she is left with three children and faces crisis in her life. Please pray for the bereaved family and God's help.

Â Paramasivam and Chinnathai are stricken by witchcraft and their son Sudhakar is demon possessed; his mother has renounced idol worship and believed on Jesus. Pray for God's mighty intervention in their lives.

Â Pray for Naik and Kasbe families to be restored to faith.

Â Mohan Deenadayalan, our Regional Coordinator for West has moved to Kolhapur from Satara for effective coordination. Pray for God's enablement and wisdom to rest upon him.

Â The ministry among the children in Kharawali is picking up.

## RAJASTHAN

Â Jorgi, Gambir, Vimala, Bhimchand, Leel, Manu, Amit, Santagi, Ram, Babulal, Mulchand, Kakli, Mahanderchand and Sunil are our gospel contacts. Pray for their salvation.

Â Praise God for the 16 people from Ghatia who took a bold decision to obey the Lord in water baptism. These growing believers need a place for regular worship.

Â Rev. Z. R. Masih and missionary Hiramani Vyas addressed the 60 people in the *Blessing* readers meet at Ajmer.

Â God answered the fervent prayers of our lady believers in Neemkathana and healed the 5 year old Rubia from boils in the entire body, when her mother brought the baby for prayer.

Â Usha is witnessing boldly for the Lord inspite of persecution from her husband and family members. Our believer Banswari is facing problems from anti christian elements. Pray for God's intervention.

Â Pray for the oneness among the lady believers who are regularly gathering for prayer in Srimadhopor.

Â Kevadia, Jholawar and Muka are the new villages visited by our missionaries recently.

Â Missionary W. Victor Kumar has moved to Srimadhopor. Pray for God's protection and for his marriage settlement.

Â The Revival meeting held in the CNI Church Beawer was well responded. Missionaries A. Malarselvan and S. Raja shared the Word and Michael Singh led the edifying worship.

## TAMILNADU

Â Pray for the villagers Madhu, Rani, Vasantha, Pooncholai, Aandi, Annaamali, Parvathi and Yomathi who have gladly listened to the gospel.

Â Praise God for Maanachi who was blessed with a baby through prayers after 10 years of marriage.

Â Senior missionaries Mr. & Mrs. A. Sundaramurthy and S. Samidoss visited the various fields in Orissa for 10 days. Pray that the new ideas and inputs they have gained through this visit may speedup the gospel work in their field.

Â In Keeraipatti the Lord enabled us to purchase an acre of land for Church construction.

Â 200 Christians participated in the special meeting organised in Sivakasi CSI Ragland Memorial Church, in which one of our senior leaders A. Jeyaraj ministered and edified the congregation. He also shared God's Word in the CSI Ida Scudder Church, Vellore.

Â The visit of well wishers from Thiruvallur in Sitteri field brought great encouragement to the staff.

Â Praise God that Thangamani and his husband were united through prayers and counseling after 9 months of separation. Seeing this, her father has started to attend our prayer meetings.

Â Our believer Ratnam's son was missing for 40 days. The parents got him back miraculously through prayers.

Â Missionary M. C. Ponniah challenged the 500 people in the Missionary Evening programme held in Puttur to pray fervently and give liberally for missionary cause.

Â Three of our children boarding in Blessing Girls' Home, Sitteri met with an accident while going in a bus to Hosur to write the 10th board exam. The Lord wonderfully protected them and the three missionaries who accompanied them without any injury.

Â Praise God for the Sunday classes, Youth meetings and Women prayer cells conducted by our head quarter staff regularly in Senur and Vanjur villages despite their tight office work.

Â Pray for Alamelu, Ambika and Unnamali who have purchased Bibles. They are reading it with much eagerness.

Â Missionary Latha Jeyakumar gave birth to a girl baby. Praise the Lord.

Â In the Women's meet conducted in Kalinjur Dr. Mrs. Lilian Stanley shared the Word of God.

Â Teams of students were trained for missionary outreach in Sitteri Hills, Aranoothu Hills, Chitling valley. Many have returned to their colleges with passion for reaching the unreached.

## UTTAR PRADESH

À Christian homes and institutions in Varanasi and Mugalsarai were visited with Blessing books and audiotapes led by missionary D. P. Joseph Devaraj and the response was good. The active involvement of Pastor Aravind Thomas, Rev. Hitry Jeswant, Mr. Mahapatra, Dr. Samuel Dayal and Mrs. & Mr. Christopher Oswin was a real boost. Pray that those who purchased the materials may read and listen and experience a personal revival.

À Missionaries Appalasamy, Raju Khurne and Leelan underwent in a monthlong Training Course for driving in Lucknow, in partnership with OM India.

À Thieves entered the office cum residence of the Field Coordinator and took away some valuables on a Saturday afternoon. Pray for the safety of all the missionaries and their belongings.

## WEST BENGAL

À Senior missionaries of BYM camped in Kolkata city under the leadership of missionary V. Chelliah and conducted a Blessing Literature Drive Programme. Devotional books, audio and video tapes and Bible study VCDs were distributed to various Christians.

À Pray that Blessing magazine may be published in Bengali language shortly.

## GENERAL

À 850 participants from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Orissa, Jharkand and Tamil Nadu were richly blessed through the Harvesters' Family Camp held in Sitteri Hills. The leaders of the Mission ministered together as a team. Mr. Patrick Joshua of FMPB was the guest speaker. Thanks for your prayers.

À Pray for Mr. & Mrs. A. Jeyaraj as they undertake a two months long tour in USA and Canada commencing from the 28th of June 2005. They will also have times of fellowship with the Mission's partners over there in addition to some ministerial programmes during this period. Praise God for their youngest son, Prince Benjamin, B.E., M.Tech. Who is engaged to marry Miss Idaline, the only daughter of Mrs. & Mr. John Kirubakaran of FMPB. Prince has joined with the ministry of Gospel For Asia to serve God full time.

À 60 representatives from the families of sponsors who support the missionary kids of BYM gathered in Chennai prayerfully worked out the ways and means to help the children of the missionary parents who have invested their lives for the cause of the Kingdom.

À Congrats to dear brother and sister R. Stanley who have become grandparents! Their only daughter Evangline Jonas gave birth to a baby girl on 3 May 2005. Pray for the sweet little one—  
Vivilia. f

This Magazine presents the message and the ministry of Blessing Youth Mission, an interdenominational Christian organisation, dedicated to Church Revival and Missionary Evangelism, functioning since 1971.

Founder: R. Stanley, B.E., M.Tech.



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