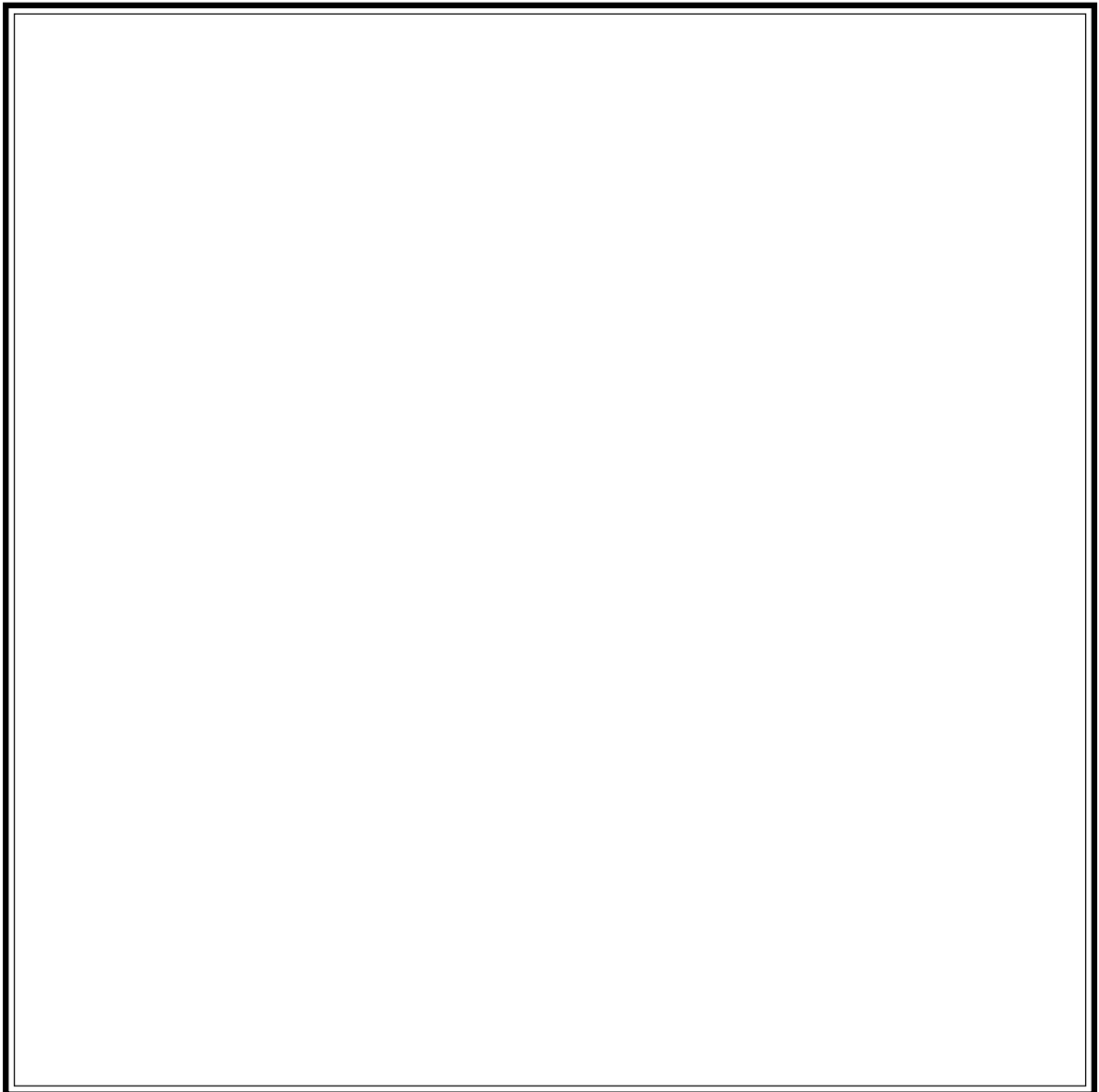


YEAR OF HARVEST

<http://www.BlessingYouthMission.org>



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WOMEN AND TABERNACLE!

Dr. Mrs. Lilian Stanley

At least on two occasions in the Bible we read about women and their involvement in the Tabernacle. The first is in the genesis of the Tabernacle mentioned at Exodus 35, where women helped build the Tabernacle. The second occurrence is in 1 Samuel 2, almost at the end of its existence where women helped to break it. In the first instance, it was service at the tabernacle and in the second it was sin at the tabernacle. A Tamil proverb says that it is the woman who builds and it is the woman who breaks (Aavathum pennalay, azhivathum pennalay).

Building of the Tabernacle in the wilderness is analogous to building the Kingdom of God in this wilderness world. I would like to draw your attention to what motivated women to involve themselves in the building and the lessons we learn from them in the first part of the article, namely, The Woman builds.

“Then everyone came whose heart was stirred and everyone whose spirit was willing, and they brought the Lord’s offering for the work of the tabernacle of meeting, for all its service, and for the holy garments. They came, both men and women, as many as had a willing heart, and brought earrings and nose rings, rings and necklaces, all jewelry of gold... All the women who were gifted artisans spun yarn with their hands, and brought what they had spun, of blue, purple and scarlet, and fine linen. And all the women whose hearts stirred with wisdom spun yarn of goats hair... The children of Israel brought a freewill offering to the Lord, all the men and women whose hearts were willing to

bring material for all kinds of work which the Lord, by the hand of Moses, had commanded to be done” (Ex 35:21-29).

1. The Scriptures (*v 29*)

“The Lord, by the hand of Moses, had commanded to be done.”

The task looked preposterously huge in the wilderness. If God had asked them to build a Tent while at Egypt they could have done it at the blink of the eye. Or if after reaching Canaan, at the speed of lightening. But His demand seemed an impossible command in the wilderness. But, for the people of Israel God’s Word decided the finality.

Can we go into ALL the world? Yes, because God said it. Can we make disciples of ALL nations? Yes, because God commanded it. Can we teach them to observe ALL things? Certainly. Will He be with us ALWAYS? Most certainly. Is missions possible? Absolutely; because God said it. If in a wilderness a tabernacle could be built, the Kingdom of God can be built in this evil world. When Moses gave the call, the women were captivated by the lure of the challenge.

Anyone reading the Bible with deep reverence cannot but understand that the axis revolves around getting the goodnews to the entire world and women played a vital role. God’s call is clear to any woman who has a heart that obeys the Scriptures. If you believe that Bible is the voice of God then you must believe that God is calling you for His Kingdom work. There is no

greater impetus to serve God than His Word. Say, 'Yes' to the Scriptures.

2. The Stir (vv 21,26)

Who would put their neck to this backbreaking job? All were invited. "Moses spoke to ALL the congregation WHOEVER is of a willing heart... ALL who are gifted artisans" (vv 4,5,10).

Moses did not point out who should come nor pick out his choice. He threw the challenge at the entire congregation.

"And ALL the congregation of the children of Israel departed from the presence of Moses. Then EVERYONE came whose heart was STIRRED and everyone whose spirit was willing..." (vv 20,21,22).

What was this stir? It was just a mild disturbance, a thought, a feeling, a desire, a question, 'Can I do something for God?' God doesn't use the megaphone. He speaks gently, softly, quietly by just stirring your heart. I felt it at the age of thirteen. The question was tossed my way, "Am I called?" I didn't know. I only said Yes to God's leading every step of the way and ended up serving the Most High God. Giving heed to the stir was probably one of the most pivotal actions of my adolescent life. There are many who keep on asking, "Am I called?" If you have that question, the answer is, "Yes, you are called." The question comes out of the stir in your heart. Do not shove it away as your own impulse. Ignoring the stir leads to a catalogue of ailments. It is God who puts desires in a godly heart.

"It is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure" (Phil 2:13). Say, 'Yes' to the stir in your heart.

3. The Step (vv 21,22,26)

"They came, both men and women as many as had a WILLING heart."

The stirred came back in response. It is the 'willingness.' When God stirs us we should take the first step boldly. We should not expect God to push and pull us. When He stirs us He expects us to stir ourselves. The prophet's complaint is, "There is no one who calls on Your name, who stirs himself up to take hold of You" (Isa 64:7). Paul writes to Timothy to stir himself up (2 Tim 1:6). That means a willing heart or will power to put the desire into action.

The Israelite women did not stop with a desire to do something. They translated their desire into action. They came, they brought, they made, they spun. The passage is packed with action. When God puts a desire in our hearts we should swing into action. In Matthew chapter 21:28-31, Jesus told a story. A man had two sons. He told the first son, "Son, go out and work in my vineyard." The son answered, "I don't want to." Later on he thought better of it and went. The father gave the same command to the second son. He answered, "Sure, glad to." But he never went. Which of the two did what the father asked? We know the answer.

Mark 16:15-20 is very interesting. Jesus told the disciples to go into the world, everywhere and announce the message of God's goodnews to one and all. Then Jesus sat down beside God in the place of honour. And the disciples went everywhere preaching. There is no inbetween. He said, they obeyed. Amazing. No questions asked; no doubts voiced; no problems projected. He said it and that's it. They went; they kept going; they never came back.

Why do you allow doubts and fears to sway you? When you want to serve God, serve. Be proactive. When you want to go to US you go to the American consulate and stand in the queue for hours. Did you pray to find out if God was calling you to go to America? You desired and you put your desire into action. Then when there is a desire to serve God why do you ask umpteen number of questions? Trust God and take the first step. Then God will show you the next step. Don't wait for a future. Do it today. This is no time for nonchalance. Call upon every bit of will power you possess and start serving God in a small way right now.

4. The Scene

It was a wilderness with a need. Barrenness all around. The need was the call, and the women promptly responded. God did not tell Nehemiah to go and build the walls of Jerusalem. It was the scene that shattered him. God did not appear to Esther in a dream and command her to go and speak to the king. Her people were perishing and that was the propelling force to drive her to kneel down before the king and put her faith in action.

Look around. From everywhere you receive SOS calls (Save our Souls). May be people do not voice it but it's written on their foreheads. They grope to find God. "Get out of bed... wake up... The whole earth is wrapped in darkness, all people sunk in deep darkness" (Isa 60:1-3).

Let the sight of any temple wring your heart. Let the scene of gambling hit your belly. Let the scent of a sinner bring tears to your eyes. When Jesus SAW the people as lost sheep, He was moved with compassion. What special call do we need except the sight of the plight of the perishing.

Most of us have developed the habit of ignoring what we see. Our brain automatically shuts down. But God speaks through visions (I mean our real vision, what we see) too! If you do not respond to the vision that God gives you through your two eyes, don't expect God to give you any other vision. Paul's "spirit was provoked within him when he SAW that the city was given over to idols" (Acts 17:16). Lift up your eyes and SEE!

Read the newspaper regularly. It is a prayer circular. Watch the news everyday in TV and lift up your hands to God. Read missionary magazines, visit mission fields and expand your vision. You will not fail to hear the plaintive call of God!

5. The Skill (vv 25,26)

"All the women who were GIFTED artisans spun yarn with their hands, and brought what they had spun, of blue, purple and scarlet, and fine linen... spun yarn of goats' hair."

Skills are more than good genes. They are God given abilities for Kingdom cause. When Moses gave the call, the women must have certainly wondered of what use they would be. They could pound olives and take out the oil; they were adept in making yarn. Would that be useful? Oh yes! Most of the walls were just veils, curtains, tapestry and their skills were used the most.

Even giving is a spiritual gift (Rom 12:8). Hospitality, cleaning, Bible study, prayer, writing, visiting, singing, personal soulwinning, helping —there is no end to the list.

God calls you as you are and trains you to use your gifts for His Kingdom. He called fisher folk and made them

fishers of men. “He also chose David His servant, and took him from the sheepfolds;... To shepherd Jacob His people, and Israel His inheritance. So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart and guided them by the skillfulness of his hands” (Psa 78:70-72). We wouldn’t consider shepherding as a gift. But when he gave himself up for God, He could use him tremendously.

The Message (Bible in contemporary language) brings out the attitude of the lazy servant vividly. “The servant given one thousand said, ‘Master, I know you have high standards and hate careless ways, that you demand the best and make no allowances for error. I was afraid I might disappoint you, so I found a good hiding place and secured your money. Here it is, safe and sound to the last cent!’ The master was furious. ‘That’s a terrible way to live! It’s criminal to live cautiously like that! If you knew I was after the best, why did you do less than the least? The least you could have done would have been to invest the sum with the bankers, where at least I would have gotten a little interest. Take the thousand and give it to the one who risked the most. And get rid of this “play-it-safe” who won’t go out on a limb. Throw him out into utter darkness’” he said (Mt 25:26-28). We are afraid to use our God-given skill because we are over cautious for fear of failure. The only people who don’t fail very much are those who don’t attempt very much.

Are you a teacher, lab technician, doctor, nurse, engineer or accountant? These women invested their housewife skills for God’s work and we are giving lame excuses.

What is in your hand, Moses? A rod. That’s enough. Give it to God and He’ll

split the Red Sea, defeat the Amalekites, bring water out of the rock. What’s in your hand, little boy? Five loaves and two fish. Fine. Make the five thousand and more to sit down. That’s enough for God to feed the multitude. What’s in your hand, dear lady? Will you give it to God, so He can use it?

6. The Sense (v 26)

“And all the women whose hearts stirred with WISDOM spun yarn of goats’ hair.”

That’s godly commonsense, the logic. Stirring points to the heart and wisdom points to the head. We don’t go just by emotions; we think. We use our sound mind (2 Tim 1:7). Many many women heard the call of Moses, but only a certain number returned back to invest their time, talent and tendons for God’s work. What made them go? The power of reasoning. They certainly thought that nothing could be wiser than investing in God’s work.

When Paul testified before king Agrippa, Festus said, “Paul, you are beside yourself! Much learning is driving you MAD!” To which Paul replied, “I am not mad, most noble Festus, but speak the Words of truth and REASON” (Acts 26:24-25). May be the world accuses those who pour themselves out for God as crazy. But they are the sanest people on earth. “I am the greatest tennis player who ever lived, why am I so empty inside?” voiced John McEnroe. The smallest of God’s servants will confess how “full” “filled” he is inside. It’s the only career with a guaranteed future.

When a man wanted Jesus to order his brother to give a fair share of the property, Jesus warned the people of

covetousness. Then He told them the story of a greedy farmer. When his farm produced a terrific crop he wanted to store the entire lot, retire, take it easy and enjoy life. God called him a FOOL and added: So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God (Lk 12:13-21).

Think. "He who wins souls is WISE (Prov 11:30). Jesus' enigmatic logic was always, "He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it" (Mt 10:39). Losers are gainers. Will you build your house in a Gulf country? You will keep sending money to your own country to build a mansion. We are pilgrims here on earth. Life on earth is but a bubble. Weigh this temporary life against eternal life. The devil befools you by incarcerating you in this false paradise. But the Bible teaches us to look beyond. Think and think again. Are you building God's Kingdom or your own kingdom?

If you are building God's kingdom, where? Where there are hundred builders or where there is none? Here again commonsense has a word to say.

7. The Sacrifice and Surrender

The women brought their ornaments, oil, yarn. Once they gave it there was no buying it back from shops in the wilderness. They had lost their ornaments forever. That's real sacrifice. Precious jewels turned to candlesticks and lampstands. Did Moses promise to write their names on it? Where will the names of those who brought oil be written? They didn't care for recognition. I was most touched when I read that the bronze washbasin and its bronze stand were made from the mirrors of the women's work group who were assigned to serve at the entrance to the Tent of meeting (Ex 38:8). Those days women used polished bronze for

mirrors. If they gave it up then they went without a mirror. Think of it. They gave up their most treasured possessions—jewels and mirror! They made themselves nothing for God! Being a disciple of Christ means hating your own self. And that's what these women did. Hats off to them.

Building the kingdom of God is no easy task. It means a lot of giving and giving up — may be your very life. Are you ready? God does not call us for an easy chair religion. It's an uneasy chair life. God sacrificed His very Son and Jesus sacrificed His everything when He died on the cross for us. What have you given up for Him?

It was total surrender and unstinted effort till the job was complete. Battling against daunting odds, they created minor history. They brought everything to Moses for inspection. What was the certificate he gave them? "According to all that the Lord had commanded Moses so the children of Israel did all the work. Then Moses looked over all the work, and indeed they had done it (Hurray!); as the Lord had commanded, just so they had done it. And Moses blessed them" (Ex 39:42-43 parenthesis mine). The applause they got was the cherry on top. No shoddy work. They had committed themselves to the task and stood indefatigable in the cruel wilderness. No turning back, no turning back (Lk 9:57-10:3). I wonder if the Lk 9:61 fellow was one among the 70. What did they get in return for all their sacrifice? Moses blessed them. What a climax! How many missed the blessing. The coronation ceremony is just round the corner. Will you sing grandly—

*When the Saints go marching by;
When the Saints go marching by;
Lord I want to be among the numbers;
When the Saints go marching by!* ■

CARRY SEEDS, CARRY SHEAVES

John Thomas

It is an eternal principle that unless we give, we cannot receive; unless we put in, we cannot take out; unless we sow, we cannot reap. This is what we read in Psalm 126:5&6. This reference is in connection with farming. In about a dozen of His parables Jesus related the Kingdom of God to farming and agriculture. Even the whole Bible abounds with such comparisons. The reason is that most of the principles relating to evangelism and farming are the same. From the above reference we shall learn some of the principles involved in harvesting the souls.

First, the principle of sowing. The promise of reaping the harvest is only for those who sow. The sluggard does not plow in season; so, at harvest time he looks but finds nothing (Prov 20:4). Laziness is one of the reasons for a bad harvest.

If the lazy person finds excuses in the time of sowing, she/he will find no harvest at the time of reaping. The promise of harvest is only for those who go out. We cannot be brooding over the one talent, not using it. One day we have to face the Judge along with that lazy man of Matt 25:26. Shall we learn a lesson from the industrious ants to be wise enough? (Prov 6:6-8).

Casualness can also be grouped with laziness. These are the days of casual wears, casual meetings, casual eatings etc. There are things to be done informally and there are also things of seriousness. The commission to preach the Gospel is called 'the Great Commission.' It is a great command. Christians cannot be casual about this command of our Lord. Unless we support the ministry of harvest with our travelling prayer and hard earned money, we are not serious

about this command. Praise God for millions of God's people all over the world who are serious in obeying God's Command. They fulfil the principle of sowing the seed and therefore, are sure to rejoice during harvest.

Callousness is the elder sister of casualness. Both are by-products of laziness. As a young man, King David could have been callous when Goliath challenged the people of Israel. But he was emotionally aroused and said, Who is this uncrumpled Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God? Where are such youth today who are sensitive to the reproach that the Church is facing?

Second, the principle of tears! When Nehemiah heard about the ruined condition of the city of Jerusalem, he sat down and wept. What was the result? A great restoration—resulting in great celebration and great joy (Neh 8:10-12). Jeremiah too sowed the seed of tears for the captives in Jerusalem. Jesus also wept and shed tears for the sins of Jerusalem. Should we not weep and cry over the present ruined walls of the New Testament Church? God's people are in great affliction. The walls are broken and the Church is exposed to the enemy's onslaughts. Though the dispensation is changed, our God has not changed. His principles of sowing and reaping are the same. So, the need of the hour is that kind of passionate prayers of Nehemiah and Jeremiah of the Old Testament and that of Paul and others of the New Testament. Tears in the night precede the joy in the morning (Psa 30:5b). No weeping, no reaping.

Third, the principle of hard work. Hard work goes before harvest. It is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance that

there is no substitute for hard work. Hard work is involved both in farming and in the Gospel propagation (2 Tim 2:6,10). Many God's people avoid hard work under the guise of rest and relaxation. Their lives are rusted and wasted. Jesus is looking for 'labourers' for His harvest (Mt 9:37). So, let us not get rusted and wasted in our strength, not using it for God.

The word, 'carrying' occurs twice in our text. One is carrying the seed and another, carrying the sheaves. Many of us enjoy carrying the sheaves but neglect sowing the seeds.

Apostle Paul aimed at sowing the seed in virgin soil. Sowing seeds on virgin soil is like laying foundation for the building. Sowing gospel seeds in a new place is a hard task. But many want to steal away the crop without going through the hard task of sowing. Today, sheaves stealing has become common. We are experts in division than multiplication. Only when we carry the seeds and sow, do we get the promise of hundred folds, sixty folds and thirty folds. Otherwise it will not be multiplication but only divisions of hundred, sixty and thirty. Church cannot have growth unless it goes forth. Let us carry the seed and sow in virgin soils. Lay foundations in new places and establish the Church of God in regions beyond (2 Cor 10:16). God is pleased with such work and He honours hard work. Please meditate on Haggai 1:7,8. Let us take up hard task in the propagation of the gospel.

Finally, the principle of rejoicing. I remember the days in 1980^s when I was directly involved in the Church planting ministry in the district of Koraput of Orissa. Sometimes we used to go crossing mountain after mountains, trekking forests and finally landing up in a small tribal village of just 10 houses. All our tiredness would vanish when we saw the smiling faces of the tribal people. Our hearts would rejoice when they responded to

the Gospel. Today our missionaries have raised more than 150 congregations among the tribal and downtrodden people in Orissa! The Lord is richly rewarding the hardships of our missionaries. What a great joy after a season of hard labour?!

In conclusion, the promise of carrying sheaves is only for those who go. Only those who GO can reap and carry the sheaves of souls for God's Kingdom. Only those who sow in tears have part in the joy of reaping souls. Only those who work hard carrying the seed can have the privilege of carrying the sheaves. **f**

(Contn. Page 15)

Â In answer to our persistent prayers, God removed the problem of our believers in getting their community certificate. Because of this miracle there is a considerable increase in participation in the worship services.

Â 70 believers experienced the spirit of prayer in the fasting prayers conducted in Chitling and Achalwadi and they prayed for the welfare of India (2 Chro 7:14).

Â An one day youth retreat was arranged in Thirukoilur for 700 youth, who were richly blessed through the ministry of our HQ missionaries.

Â Missionary Mercy Simon was blessed with a girl baby and missionary Mercy Moses was blessed with a boy baby. Thanks for your prayers.

GENERAL

Â Missionary E. L. Mathansingh participated in a consultation on counselling organised by IMA and Grace Counselling India in Trans World Radio Campus, Delhi.

Â Missionary B. N. Samal attended a seminar on Church Planting & Growth arranged by IMA in Patna, Bihar.

Â Pray for the forth coming important gatherings in Chennai—

Nov 19-20 Annual General Body Meeting & Board Meeting

21-23 Consultation on Social Concerns

24-26 National Level Coordinators' Get together **f**

Heart Transplant!

E. Anantharaj, Missionary, BVM.

- C Lord, I know that the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked (Jer 17:9); so I pray, give me **ANOTHER HEART**.
(1 Sam 10:9)
- C Lord, grant me a **BROKEN HEART**, so that You may be always close to me.
(Psa 34:18 NIV)
- C Lord, create in me a **CLEAN HEART**, so that I may see You.
(Ps 51: 10; Mt 5:8)
- C Lord, grant me a **CHEERFUL HEART**, so that I become a medicine to others.
(Prov 17:22 NIV)
- C Lord, make in me a **CONTRITE HEART**, so that You will not despise me.
(Psa 51: 17)
- C Lord, make mine a **DISCERNING HEART**, so that I may distinguish between right and wrong.
(1 King 3:9 NIV)
- C Lord, let my **HEART BE FIXED** on you, so that I may sing and give praises unto You.
(Psa 57:7 KJV)
- C Lord, endow me with a **GOOD HEART**, so that I may be a doer of Your Word, bringing forth fruit with patience.
(Lk 8:15).
- C Lord, bless me with a **HAPPY HEART**, so that my face will be cheerful always.
(Prov 15:13 NIV)
- C Lord, I pray for a **GENTLE AND LOWLY HEART**, that I may be like my Master.
(Mt 11 :29)
- C Lord, I want a **WILLING HEART**, so that I may give my tithes and offerings willingly to You.
(Ex 35:5; 1 Chr 29:9 KJV)
- C Lord, fulfill Your promise of a **NEW HEART** to me; so that I may be fully liberated from the old covenant (LAW) and enjoy the blessings of the new covenant (GRACE).
(Ezek 36:26)
- C Lord, I plead for an **UNDIVIDED HEART**, that I may follow Your decrees and be careful to keep Your laws (teachings).
(Ezek 11:19,20 NIV)
- C Lord, make my **HEART REJOICING** always in Your Salvation, that I may smile at my enemies.
(1 Sam 2:1).
- C Lord, transform my heart into a **SOUND HEART**, so that I may have a sound life.
(Prov 14:30 KJV)
- C Lord, give me a **TENDER HEART**, so that I may freely forgive others.
(Eph 4:32 KJV)
- C Finally, search me, O God and know **MY HEART**... and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.
(Psa 139:23,24)

(All scripture quotations are from the NKJV unless otherwise noted)

FEED ORISSA

An Update by Mr. P. Thomas Livingstone, Missionary, Bargarh, Orissa

Dearly beloved in Christ,

Our exploits in the State of Orissa are expanding from villages to blocks in the Bargarh district. We conducted an intensive medical camp for five days from the 30th of March to the 3rd of April, in association with Medivision. This camp covered 125 villages of 3 blocks of Bargarh District. A total of 4822 patients were treated over the 5 days. That means an average of 964 patients per day. Visualize a crowd of a 1000 sick people thronging for medical attention each day and you get an idea of the mammoth need here. The camp also helped us to get into a good rapport with the local leaders and the villagers. Praise the Lord, for His doings are marvelous in our eyes.

Our sincere thanks to Medivision General Secretary Dr. Sashya, Coordinator, promotional worker and the medical team—Dr. Anand Dorai, Dr. Allan, Dr. Vino, Dr. Vasantha, Dr. Mercy, Dr. Caesar, the three nurses, the four pharmacists and the lab technician.

We planned to have celebrations on the 24th of March, which is observed as the World TB day as a means to create awareness among the nearby villages. There was a procession from Jhunungapali to our Blessing centre in Diptipur. TB patients who have completed their treatment and three hundred women from our Self Help Groups participated in the procession, holding placards. The procession halted in between at few places to create awareness.

Several new TB patients have been identified and started on treatment. It is thrilling to see patients who had been carried into the clinic sometime ago, walking in with bright cheerful faces. Mrs. Rajkumari Barik from Sirigida was deserted by her husband when she contracted TB. Her parents used to put her on a bicycle and bring her for treatment. Now she is able to walk and has also put on weight! Another such person is Mr. Soukilal Bariha from Tal village. Our staff says, “When he was brought to us for treatment, he looked

like a huge piece of cotton. After a few weeks of treatment he seems to be as strong as a stone.” We can add many such stories with the title “sorrow turned into joy” but for the limited space. Surely God has blessed the medicines and the ration we provide them. 368 have so far completed treatment.

Hundreds of village folks gathered to watch the Malaria and Leprosy awareness films. People were happy to have their eyes opened and thanked us profusely. Gone are those days when we used to go village after village creating awareness by holding placards and screaming in a microphone at the top of our voices. Thanks to the technology, but we stand requesting your prayers so that all our efforts may bear fruit.

We have been asked to vacate the office building and the hostel where two of our girls were staying. Though it was a jolt to us, we know our Lord never makes mistakes. We feel it is God’s way of telling us to enlarge the place of our tent and stretch out the curtains of our dwellings; lengthen our cords and strengthen our stakes. For we shall expand to the right and to the left... (Isa 54:2,3). So we have shifted the social work department to Bargarh, which is the district head quarter. From here it is more convenient to cover the thirty blocks of the district. The centre for evangelism will continue to be in Diptipur.

This summer, Diptipur was livened up by the VBS that we conducted for the first time. The temperature hovered around 48° C, but



hearts were refreshed as 83 children from the nearby villages converged at M.E. School from 19th to the 21th of May. The classes were held both in the mornings and in the evenings upto 6.30 pm. Early on the third day, about 100 children arrived. Dressed colourfully, they went on a procession around Diptipur. In the Valedictory function, the children sang and recited memory verses. This is the first time VBS is conducted for the non Christian children in Diptipur! We pray that the seed sown in these young hearts grow and bring forth abundant harvest.

Our staff regularly visit the budding congregations in villages. We find children skipping their lunch to listen to the stories from the Bible during the lunch break. It is exhilarating to see the young and the old sing and dance,

*“Shaitane pochhe ja, pochhe ja,
Mu Jesu ra pilla”*

(Satan, get behind me. I am a child of God)

We arranged a “Church Elders Training Camp” for three days from the 16th to the 18th of May. Ten leaders participated and



were taught the basic principles of Christian Leadership. We rejoiced with the heaven when sixteen people from 3 villages obeyed the Lord and joined the Church.

The jubilant moment came when we dedicated our first church in Jimbahal on the 28th of August. The Jimbahal congregation gave us a traditional welcome with *mala* and *dolak*. It was our privilege to have Mr. E. L. Mathansingh, the Field Coordinator visiting us and also dedicating the Church. Dr. Mrs. Lilian Stanley shared the word of God. It is a milestone in the history of Feed Orissa. We

thank Dr. Alfred Daniel, CMC, Vellore, for sponsoring this construction.

In Bargarh, we turned our attention towards the people living in slums. We want to work towards literacy, women’s development, weaning



children away from labour and putting them in schools and so on. To start with, we have started four tuition centres in Udhayanagar, Gandhinagar and Mangalapoda. These centres help around 140 children in the age group of 5-13.

New applicants were interviewed and ten were recruited.

Dear partners, we remember you as often as we see a grin on poverty stricken faces and a sparkle in the forlorn eyes; for we know there is somebody behind our shoulders to be thanked. Thank you for your tremendous support and strength that you offer us.

A warm handshake to every one of you.f

Address for Correspondence and Contributions:

BLESSING YOUTH MISSION

Church Colony
Vellore 632 006, India.
Tel: 0416-2242943, 2248943
Email: <bym@sancharnet.in>

Money Orders, Cheques, Bank Drafts to be sent in favour of BLESSING YOUTH MISSION, VELLORE.

Any relief material may be sent by SRMT or TCI Lorry Service to BARGARH, Orissa and the Way Bill to—Mr. P. Thomas Livingstone, Asish Sebasadan, DAM Colony, Bargarh 768 028. Mobile: 9337311560. <feed_orissa@yahoo.com>

A Call From The North

A. Malaraselvan, Jaipur, Rajasthan

The revival flames that God sent through BYM in early 1970s spread to Madhya Pradesh 30 years ago through the simple efforts of Mr. D. Ramamurthy and Mr. C. Peter, who were based in Bhopal and then to Rajasthan through the family of Mr. Joseph Moses. God has multiplied the fruits of their labour all these years and today, our tent makers, Mr. Victor P. S. Kumar coordinates the youth ministry at the national level from Gurgaon, Haryana and Mr. K. Sasitharan helps in the mission work from Kapurthala, Punjab. The State level work is ably coordinated by the following: **Chattisgarh**—Mr. G. Rajadhas and Mr. R. Elisha; **Madhya Pradesh**—Mr. J. J. Devanesan and Mr. J. J. Selvaraj; **Rajasthan**—Mr. S. Raja and Mr. E. Anantharaj and **Uttar Pradesh**—Mr. D. P. Joseph Devaraj. The lady staff are motivated and guided by Mrs. Lalitha Mathansingh, the Regional Lady Staff Counsellor. All the 45 missionaries serving from 13 fields are knit together with a loving and caring relationship. They are encouraged to use their God-given gifts and talents for building His Kingdom, under the leadership of Mr. E. L. Mathansingh, Northern Regional Coordinator.

The BYM is basically a revival movement. This year, a number of revival programmes were organised in Vishrampur, Bethelpur, Tilda, Bhatapara, Bhilai, Damthari, Beawar and Mahendragarh. *Cross Bearers* music troop consisting of young men from Jabalpur ministered to 5400 students in various schools and colleges in Katni and Jabalpur through extempore gospel songs and meaningful skits. Youth rallies were conducted in Ajmer, Banswara, Shahgarh, Katni and Jabalpur. The young people who gave their lives to Christ were systematically disciplined through prayer cells. Christian families were strengthened through the Family Retreats conducted in Sagar and Katni. A regional level revival camp 'Blesso' was organised in Jabalpur in which delegates from 10 North and North-eastern States participated.

The Church planting ministry is done among churchless people groups of Ahirwar, Balai, Bhil, and Prajapati. This year has been truly a Year of Harvest. 500 believers worship in 25 worship

groups. Believers are disciplined to follow Jesus and trained in soul winning. God has attested His great salvation with signs and wonders. A worship shed cum training centre has been constructed in Shahgarh. Sons of the soil are equipped and empowered as native evangelists through systematic training programmes. A Blessing Children Home for the poor children is run in Katni to raise future pillars for the church and society. Since literacy is the key for evangelism, Adult Literacy Programme is carried out in partnership with Seva Bharat in Rajasthan to enable believers and contacts read the life transforming Word of God.

Quality Christian books, cassettes and CDs are helpful tools to experience the heaven sent revival. Mr. Stephen Jeyaraj leads the team in promoting Blessing literature. *Ashish* magazine is edited by Mr. Surender Singh and our books in Hindi are done by Mr. J. J. Selvaraj and Mr. George Allemby from Jabalpur to provide a balanced spiritual food. Two new titles—*Good Bye Satan* and *How To Do Gospel Work* were the latest release. Bimonthly magazine for youth *Yuva Jagat* was launched to guide the gennext. Missionary singer R. Elisha's 5 volumes of *Ashish Geet* cassettes and CDs uplift the hearts of people in worship and challenge them to fulfil the Great Commission.

Blessing centre in Jabalpur which was renovated and dedicated a year ago, serves as the training centre for the north. Prayer seminars, Missiological and Theological trainings, Native workers training, Preachers' training seminar and Consultations on Revival, Youth and Literature are being organised at regular intervals. The northern region ministry is coordinated from Lucknow, from where the Field News for the Blessing magazine is compiled every month and Child Sponsorship Department for missionary kids is spearheaded. We humbly request you to intercede for the needs and challenges of the North. One jeep each for Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan will very much accelerate the mission activity. We lovingly welcome you to visit any one of the fields in the north in 2006. Will you come? **f**

News from Fields

Compiled by E. L. Mathansingh, Field Coordinator

The Blessing Youth Mission has stationed over 300 missionaries in 14 States of India, namely Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, 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 the Lord for Raju, Sreenivas, Saradha, Babu, Ravi, Rani, Pappamma and Supriya who have accepted Christ as the Lord of their lives.

Â Thirty youth obeyed the missionary call given in a meeting conducted in Kunchanapalli where missionary P. Selvam motivated the participants to be missionary Christians.

Â In a Deborah camp conducted in Vizianagaram 240 women were blessed by the Word of God shared by Mrs. Anita James and Missionary Rebekah Thomas. Pray that many more Deborahs may awake for His Kingdom work.

Â Two student prayer cells were newly started in Guntur and six girls regularly gather to study God's Word. Pray for their spiritual growth.

Â Srinu received a miraculous deliverance from demon possession and is showing much interest in the Gospel.

Â The believers in Ginjeru, Ravivalasa, Isukapalem are gathering regularly to worship the Lord. Pray that God may raise the local leaders to oversee and develop these congregations.

Â Pray for Sitamma (leukaemia); Chengal, Pranathi and Sheethal (demon possession); Ramakrishna and Anjamma (jaundice); and Vasanthakumari (kidney problem).

Â Missionary Reddy Appalasamy married Easwari in Korukonda on 28th September. Congratulations!

ASSAM

Â God enabled our missionaries to promote *Blessing* magazine and literature in Chabua. Pray that those who bought the literature may read and grow in their spiritual lives.

Â Two hundred Students were blessed by the challenging message given by missionary Leence Joel in an exclusive meeting in Tezpur organized by Campus Crusade for Christ.

Â Missionary Ruby Gnanapragasam and Mrs. Konika Kishorkumar visited Sonapur and encouraged the families through the Word of God

Â A team of our missionaries under the leadership of missionaries L. Stephen Dhanaraj and J. Gnana pragasam will be ministering through a weeklong Literature Drive Programme in Dimapur (Nagaland) from 6 to 12 November 2005; pray that the people may be revived through Christian devotional literature, cassettes and CDs.

GUJARAT

Â Praise the Lord for the divine deliverance of Shamabhai and Ballubhai of Shelapur village from demon possession.

Â Deborah team in Nadiad visited Palana and Keriyavi villages and shared the Goodnews; pray that the Gospel may liberate the people from all kinds of bondages.

Â Our missionaries distributed Rs. 7000/- worth of Blessing literature in a literature drive conducted in Valsad. Pray that the Holy Spirit may open the eyes of understanding of the people as they read and listen to God's message.

Â Tharopa, Dolar, Rampura, Pratappuri, Cithrol, Mysoi and Gamyura villages were visited by our missionaries and a systematic strategy is worked out for the future ministry; pray that the Lord may open the door to bring the responding people into His fold.

Â Our native worker Mr. Manhar Vasava's mother is suffering from ulcer severely. Pray for God's healing.

JHARKHAND

Â God blessed the revival and literature ministries in Giridihi district by our missionaries during their recent visit. God enabled them to meet many Christian leaders, pastors and families and establish a good rapport with them.

Â Missionary N. K. Kusha encouraged 150 people through the Word of God in the Pentecostal Holiness Church in Jangalpura. Pray that those who heard the message may walk in the path of righteousness.

Â Ankita, a young girl was delivered from demon possession through prayers. Pray that she and her family may accept Christ as their personal Saviour.

Â Pray that our Gospel contacts Chhakaram, Tribhubar, Jogendra, Radhadevi, Basantram, Nirmal, Mahesh and Budhan may know the truth and join His family.

Â A consultation was arranged in Jamshedpur to organise revival meetings in Tata Nagar and 15 of our well wishers participated and gave their valuable suggestions. Pray for all the needed arrangements and preparation.

Â Pray for the divine healing of Anil (Paralytic); Sheela (mental depression) and Dezy (safe delivery).

KARNATAKA

Â God miraculously protected the inmates of Blessing Children Home from a major fire accident due to fluctuation in the power supply and short circuit. 26 boys committed their lives to God in a retreat conducted recently. Pray for their all round growth.

Â God is doing mighty things among the Banjara people group. 45 believers are growing steadily in the Lord. Pray that God may help them to find an alternative for their traditional work of making alcohol.

Â Praise the Lord for the divine deliverance of Sunil from demon possession and Arjunan from drunkenness.

Â Gospel was shared to the 12 young girls of Inamhongal village, through friendship evangelism. Pray that the truth may set them free.

Â In order to help the believers grow in the Bible, a contest on the book *Little Foxes* was conducted, in which 20 people enthusiastically participated.

Â A team of 13 young people from Bangalore led by Mr. E. Ebenezer went on a Needy Land Tour to meet the Gowli people group in Kattur filed.

Â Sheela Kempana, our native worker in Mainalli is suffering from gastritis. Pray for God's healing touch on her.

KERALA

Â God used our lay leaders Mr. J. Wilson and Mr. Y. Daniel in a three day revival meeting conducted in Thamarottukonam and the participants were immensely blessed through the Word of God.

Â Literature distribution cum revival meetings were arranged in Valiyathura and Nemom, in which Mr. S. Wilson and Mr. Benjamin Moses shared the Word of God.

Â Missionary couple Jesuraghavan-Sumathi visited the Christian families in Kottayam and distributed Blessing publications. Pray that the spiritual awakening may spread throughout this state by the readers of Blessing literature.

MADHYA PRADESH

Â The missionaries and believers of Shahgarh were greatly edified by the visit of Pastor Edward Francis and team from Manipal, Karnataka. 60 believers were blessed by the Word of God shared by him in a Believers' Retreat. He was one of the pioneer missionaries sent by BYM to this area, 25 years ago.

Â A seekers' meet was conducted in Shahgarh in which 40 people accepted Jesus Christ as their personal saviour. Pray that they may stand firm in their decision.

Â Mr. E. L. Ephraim, one of our Zonal Co-ordinators of Tamilnadu visited Deori, Shahgarh and Banda fields and encouraged the believers and missionaries.

Â Praise God for Rakesh Patel and Khamman, who have committed their lives to God. Pray that they may witness Christ through their life style.

Â The showers of blessing was experienced in the Mission Evening and the Holy Spirit rally

conducted in Katni. 13 people received the Holy Spirit baptism and many pledged for missionary evangelism. God used missionary P. Chezhan in these meetings mightily.

Â 77 believers obeyed the Lord in water baptism. Pray that they may walk in the footsteps of Jesus amidst trials and tribulations.

Â God miraculously protected Giranilal, one of our native workers from the schemes of the enemy.

Â Raju, a young boy was delivered from bad company and accepted Christ as the Master of his life. Pray that he may reveal the beauty of Jesus in his life.

MAHARASHTRA

Â Praise God for Arathi, Vanitha, and Nanda of Gheradi village who were delivered from demon possession through prayers. Due to this power encounter many villagers come to worship the Lord.

Â Mr. Parameshwaran of Vaduj was gradually loosing his vision. But with faith and determination he constantly read the Bible and recovered his eyesight miraculously.

Â In a 3 day fasting prayer conducted in Jath 15 believers earnestly interceded for the salvation of our Nation. Pray that all the believers may become prayer warriors.

Â The villagers of Pandewadi renounced their idol worship and started worshiping the Living God. Pray that God may strengthen them to grow more in Him.

Â Pray for Vaishali, Kalpana, Ratna and Vidhya who are facing severe opposition from their family members because of their faith in the Lord. Pray for God's intervention.

Â Our missionaries of Mahad are facing opposition to share the Goodnews in Bhendiwala village. Pray that God may change the attitude of the people and know the love of Christ.

Â The believers in Jath enthusiastically participated in the 'Bible Quest' and studied the books of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes. Pray that all our believers may remain Bible lovers all the days of their life.

RAJASTHAN

Â Praise the Lord for the 150 believers who jubilantly participated in the *Festival of Joy* in Singhana. Missionary couple Stephen Dhanaraj and Anbarasi encouraged the participants through the Word of God focusing on the theme 'Transformed life.'

Â Twenty teachers were blessed by the Christian Teachers' Conference in Jodhpur. Dr. Samuel Dayal of Kanpur shared God's Word and motivated the participants to be effective Christian teachers.

Â Pooja, one of our Sunday school children in Singhana fell down from the upstairs and God protected her miraculously in this major accident.

Â The villagers of Ghatiya, Becri and Bakaner are very happy because of our free tuition to their children. Also God gave them a good harvest this year. Our God is a prayer answering God!

Â Mr. E. L. Mangaladurai's family from Thanjavur visited the church planting fields in Srimadhopur and Nimkathana and encouraged the staff and the believers.

Â Suma's husband left home because of family problems. But God united him with the family after two days. Pray for their salvation.

Â Pray for the divine touch on the following: Magan (liver problem); Susanna (thyroid problem); Sarah (fits); Takur (jaundice); Sharmila (demon possession); Poolidevi (giddiness) and Kanchan (childlessness).

Â Pray for Bro. R. Stanley, who is preaching the Word of God in Rajasthan Christian Convention, Ajmer, 4th and 5th November 2005.

Â Missionary W. Victor Jeyakumar marries Belvin Jothi on 28th November in Kanyakumari district. Pray for their fruitful ministry in Rajasthan.

TAMILNADU

Â In a 3 day annual camp 'Festival of Joy' held in Sitteri Hills, 650 believers joyfully participated and brought their thanksgiving offering worth Rs.33,500/- to God. Missionaries V. Ponnusamy, Y. Paul Dinakaran and S. Saravanan exhorted the believers with the Word of God.

Â Through an eye camp conducted in Achalwadi 32 villagers have regained their vision through surgery.

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