



**DIOCESE OF TIRUNELVELI**  
**BETHESDA C.S.I. TAMIL CHURCH**  
**PUNE**



**GOD'S PROMISE FOR THIS MONTH**

*The Lord has taken away thy judgments, he hath cast out thine enemy; the king of Israel, even the lord, is in the midst of thee, thou shalt not see evil anymore.*

*Zephaniah 3: 15.*

**MESSAGE FOR THE MONTH**

**LET US BUILD BETHASDA CSI CHURCH WITH THE SAME ZEAL LIKE NEHEMIAH.**  
**NEHEMIAH 2: 20. The God of Heaven, he will prosper us, there fore we his servants will arise and build.**

If you turn back the biblical history it says that Abraham was brought from the place called Ur. God promised him that I will make you a big nation. God blessed his family like that. Due to god's plan his defenders went to Egypt during the famine and later they became slaves. God brought them out of Egypt through Moses. He gave them 10 commandments given by God and then Joshua allotted places for the 12 tribes. But they didn't follow His commandments and started worshipping idles and followed all other religious people's activities.

So god gave them in the hands of their enemies. Further if you read bible you can see that many judges ruled them and at last they asked for a king like other countries, which was also done by god for them. Even many kings didn't follow the god the Almighty and god punished them through famine, disease or giving them in the hands of their enemies. During the king Jehoiakim period, as the king and the people were worshipping other gods and their righteous, god got angry and gave them in the hands of Babylonian king. He killed the people, broke the wall, took away all the gold, silver from Jerusalem church. He also took skilled people with him and kept Zedekiah as the king and asked him to pay money for him.

If you read II Kings 28 as Zedekiah didn't do that, again the king came killed his children in front of his eyes, made him blind and took him to Babylon as a slave. He destroyed the wall of Jerusalem, burnt it, left very poor, sick and old people there. He destroyed the place where the god was dwelling. After 70 years the king then told the Israelites to go and construct the Jerusalem church. He even told them to take back the church materials. Zerubabel who was also a prince went to Judea. Around 42000 people went with him and it took nearly 22 years for him to complete it. Then went Ezra who taught the people the god's commandments to be followed as those who were staying in Jerusalem married the other people and worshipping other gods and made their children also to follow that.

Then came Nehemiah who heard that Jerusalem, the dwelling place of Jehovah demolished and the place was misused by the other people. If we read the bible, the zeal of Nehemiah to build the broken walls of Jerusalem is really a thrilling incident for us. He was the cupbearer for the king. When he had of the news about Jerusalem he could not do any work. He took fasting and sees god gave favor in the sight of the king. He himself asked why you are like this? what happened to you? Nehemiah took that as the opportunity and told the king that when my people and my god's place is damaged, how can I be happy hear? Why Nehemiah should build the wall? What was the reason for him to build the wall? What made him to do so much for Jerusalem? The reason is that at center of Jerusalem is the church. To protect people from their enemies and also to protect their belongings the big wall was built around Jerusalem.

The same way in this present place where we are living is also with these types of people who are carried away by the worldly material things and go away from Christ. God has given a call to us the people of Bethesda to direct those people in a proper way, to bring them into Christ and to be a living testimony to the people around us.

God created us in His features but Satan damaged our life as the Jerusalem walls and Jerusalem church. We last our beauty by disobeying him. Like the prodigal son among the pigs, god has called all of us to look into the prodigal sons near by us to bring them to Lord Jesus Christ. Ezekiel

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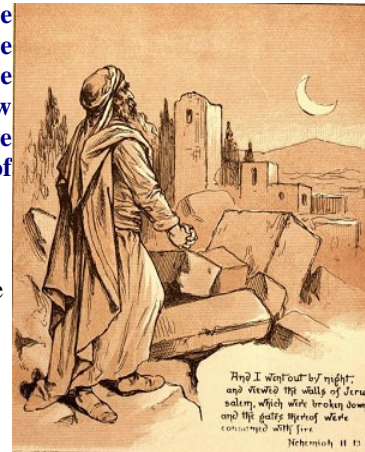
22:30 says that, And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it, but I found none. Our lord Jesus has chosen Bethesda CSI church for this work. Let this year be a challenging year for all our Bethesda members to restructure ourselves first and then to gather other souls for our Lord.

When Nehemiah started to build the wall, he has to face so many obstacles. Thobiah & Sunbalath made fun of them, came to fight with them and also told that even if a fox walk over this it will fall. But god gave strength to Nehemiah. He encouraged the people and they had weapons in one hand and with the other hand they did the work. The same way even now we have to face problem when we are doing work for our lord. But we should not feel bad as in all these situations our lord is with us who will never leave us alone. Catch His promises and do a big work kept in front of you.

In this year, let God help us to learn about how Nehemiah reconstructed the wall and the gates of Jerusalem which was damaged and we will ask our lord to help us to do the same in this present life also.

**BIBLE STUDY FOR THE MONTH (Book of Nehemiah)**

**The book of Nehemiah is a book of restoration of the walls and gates of natural Jerusalem. But it is also a picture of the work that God is doing in the restoration of His church – the spiritual city of God. Let us see the steps by procedure how Nehemiah did in order to do the big work he was called for. The same way we are also called for the big work in Pune to do a lot of work for Him.**



**1. Call for the big work: Nehemiah 1: 3**

Nehemiah heard that the walls of Jerusalem broken down, the gates are burnt and the left out poor people are in great affliction. Hearing these from the people who have come from Jerusalem, Nehemiah felt very bad about the Lord's place and this called him for the great work of building the walls of Jerusalem.

**2. Getting ready for the big work: Nehemiah 1: 1-4**

Nehemiah was working in king Artaxerxes palace as cupbearer for the king. This job can not be given to anybody but to trustworthy person only. Though he was in a good post and had everything, Nehemiah could not sit quietly when he heard about Jerusalem. The bible says that when he heard about it, he sat down, wept and mourned for certain days. He didn't curse anybody for this but said a prayer to god stating that we sinned against you by not observing your commandments. His prayer was a heart touching prayer and a lesson for us also. In our life we are also like the Israelites, by disobeying god's commandments and worn out. God is calling us to rectify ourselves first and then to catch others for Him.

**3. Big plan for big work: Nehemiah 2:1-8**

When Nehemiah heard about the cries of the people in Jerusalem he planned for the work. First he prayed for this work, then he fasted and then he appealed to the king. How he appealed to the king? Did he say anything to king? No, the way he was depressed was shown on his face and was identified by the king. The king asked Nehemiah, what happened? Why are you like this? Nehemiah answered that when my people are suffering in Jerusalem where my father's grave is there, how can I be happy here? God gave grace in front of the king and the king himself asked how many days he wants to go there and come. The king not only sanctioned him leave but also gave a letter to his forest keeper to give wood for building. When Nehemiah has planned so much for constructing the wall we should also plan, plead to god for constructing our life and also others around us.

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**4. Joined together to do the big work: Nehemiah 2:18**

Here Nehemiah had reached Jerusalem and discussed the matter of his visit to Jerusalem with the people there. The people there also gave their helping hand to Nehemiah for doing the work. This makes us think of the four friends who brought the lame person to Jesus and he was healed because of their joined work. If we join together in our church with prayers, we can do great things for Him here. Only thing is we should surrender ourselves to Him to do a miracle in our spiritual life in the church.

**5. Faith in big work: Nehemiah chapter 3:4**

When they started to build Sanballat, Tobiah mocked at them saying that if a fox goes up on this the stone will break. They came to fight with these people. But the God's people didn't lose heart, though they were building with one hand and keeping weapons in the other hand.

**6. Sanctification in big work: Nehemiah chapter 4:5**

If you have to start constructing a building you can not directly put the foundation. You have to first clean the place by removing the dirt, thorns, unwanted stones, etc. This was done in Jerusalem by Ezra and Nehemiah among the people. There was a cry among them for debts, mortgaged lands, vineyards, houses for their daily bread. Nehemiah 5:9-13 says that Nehemiah settles this matter which was a hindrance for their work there. Even we should leave aside all our small, small unwanted habits which God doesn't like and work for His glory. Read Romans 6:13.

**7. Obedience in big work: Nehemiah chapter 8**

Nehemiah built the wall of Jerusalem in 52 days then he started to teach them the ancestor's way of worshipping God the highest. Psalms 119:34 says that give me understanding and I shall keep thy law, to observe with my whole heart. Bible is the guide for us to lead us to heaven. We should follow it earnestly to achieve our Heavenly goal.

**8. Great joy in the big work: Nehemiah chapter 9**

Israelites were very happy at Jerusalem as they were singing, dancing with loud noise, they were celebrating the dedication of the new wall as a festival. How, the Israelites were happy in celebrating the re-built wall, we should also be re-born in Christ and feel the real happiness in Christ. The people of Jerusalem gave themselves fully for constructing the wall, we should also fully dedicate ourselves for building the people around us through our talks, behavior, way of living should be pleasing to others and to God. If we dedicate ourselves for the glory of God, He will bless us and our generation too, like Abraham. Luke 15 narrates us 3 parables about lost and found. We were also like that once, but our Lord Jesus has found us from the dark shadows of Satan. Like this, we should also find the lost people around us and bring many people under His fold.

**9. Till the end in the big work : Nehemiah chapter 13**

Nehemiah went back to Babylon for some time after the construction of the wall. Nehemiah 13:6,7. When he came back to Jerusalem again, Sanballat, Tobiah entered into the church and occupied a room also. Nehemiah has to do work for even in this as he was so much dedicated and staunch in God. He threw the things of him from the room like Jesus Christ did in the church. We should also learn this lesson from Nehemiah that starting a new church is not the theme for us but we should lead a model church to prove that ours is a true Christian church and bring many souls for Him. Romans 13:37.

**10. Nehemiah in the big work:**

The book of Nehemiah is a historical book in the Bible. But it gives us many challenges to be faced by us in the Christian life. Nehemiah was a strict, principled person in life and he did a lot for God and God wants us also to follow these steps to do work for Him.

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- **Chapter 1** of Nehemiah says about his mourning in front of god for his country.
- **Chapter 2** says about his request to the king to go to Jerusalem followed by his royal deliverance through proper procedures.  
The key word of the book is Nehemiah 2:17  
**“COME AND LET US BUILD THE WALLS OF JERUSALEM.”**  
Nehemiah was bold and always ready to accept all the things which will happen against him.
- **Chapter 3** gives the name list of people involved in constructing the gates.
- **Chapter 4** – States on which condition they constructed the wall.
- **Chapter 5** - About the calling of the people for their debts and taking action on their cries.
- **Chapter 6** - In spite of the threat he received 5times and the false prophecy by Noadiah, the wall construction was done in 52days.
- **Chapter7** - He arranges people as per talents and as per the commandments for looking after the people there.
- **Chapter 8** – The book of the Law of Moses was brought, the first pulpit was made for Ezra, the service was conducted and seven days celebration was done.
- **Chapter 9** - The confession of people, the first day and night prayer, praising god and covenant was made with the people for following god.
- **Chapter 10** – People was sealed for the work and 3 laws were made. They are Nehemiah10:30 not to marry outsiders apart from Israelites, Nehemiah10:31 to follow Sabbath day and Nehemiah 10:35 to give tithes in everything.
- **Chapter 11** – He gives duties for the people as per lots (Neh11:1, 14, 17, 19) like overseer, to start the thanksgiving prayer, 172 gate keepers and to give dues for the singers (Neh11:23).
- **Chapter 12** – Dedication of the Jerusalem wall done in a big manner (Neh12:27, 31, 36, 38, 40, 43). Levities from everywhere in Jerusalem were called, brought Juda’s princes upon the wall with two groups of people to praise in which one group was to the right side of dung gate, one with music was lead by Ezra, and the second praising group went against them, behind these people followed the humble Nehemiah. On that day they offered great offerings and rejoiced. The joy of Jerusalem was heard even afar off.
- **Chapter 13** – Here we can see Nehemiah who liked to be holy and who doesn’t like unholy activities.(Neh13:4, 8, 10, 15, 19, 24-30,31) Like Jesus he threw away Tobiah’s house hold things from a room in the church, to give the dues for levities, to stop selling on the Sabbath day, to shut the main gate of Jerusalem during Sabbath day, to stop marrying from other outsiders where he gave the example of king Solomon’s life Which was spoiled by his wives as an example and also to pay all types of offerings to the church to be paid properly.After doing all the above said big work for god Nehemiah asks god to remember him for all his good work.  
Let us as the family of BETHESDA join together to re-construct ourselves and also to bring many people into god’s family so that we can say as in Timothy 4:7, I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept my faith.

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**THE MESSAGE OF NEHEMIAH'S 12 GATES OF JERUSALEM.**

The city of Jerusalem had 12 gates, each with significance in the daily life and historical experience of natural Jerusalem. Each gate has a spiritual counterpart and each gate in the New Jerusalem is a single pearl (Rev 21:21). Jesus is the pearl of great price (Mt 13:45, 46) and only entrance to the city is through Jesus Christ (John 10:9, 14:6). Each gate in this book should be compared with the spiritual meaning.

**SHEEP GATE:**

Eliashib the high priest and his fellow priest went to work and rebuilt the Sheep gate. They dedicated it and set its doors in place, building as far as the Tower of hundred, which they dedicated, and as for the tower of Hananel (Neh 3:1)The sheep gate was the first to be restored and was built by the High priest and his fellow priests. Through this gate shepherds bring their flocks to the safety of the folds with in the wall. It was called as this sheep gate because it leads to the sheep market, where lambs were sold for sacrifice in the church. This gate also leads to the Golgotha, the path Jesus took to the crucifixion. *The spiritual meaning of this gate is that we are the sheep and every human being should experience the salvation made available through Jesus Christ's blood, mercy and grace from the cross. This spiritual gate is the first to be built in our lives and restored truth in the reformation.* We should be saved in every area of our life by the blood shed by Him in the Calvary. Every sheep should adhere to His voice to enter into the everlasting place that is the Heaven.

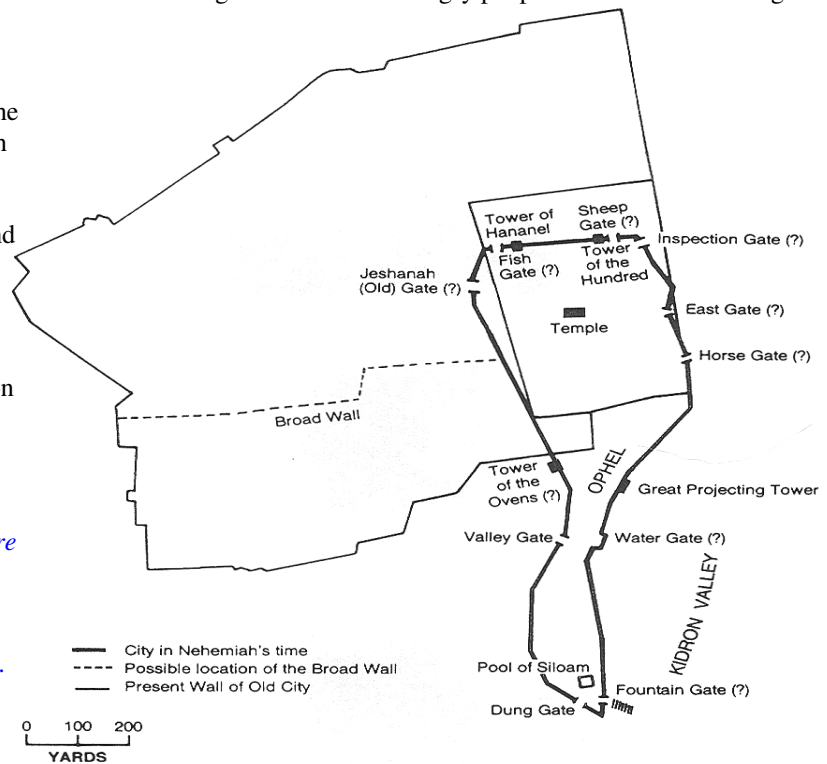
**THE FISH GATE:**

The fish gate was rebuilt by the sons of Hassenaah. They laid its beams and put its doors and bolts and bars in place.(Neh3:3)This gate is one of the main entrance to Jerusalem (2 Chronicles33:14, Zephaniah 1:10) Merchants brought fish to the market through this gate. *The spiritual meaning of this gate is that we should be witness till the end of our life.* In John 21:11 says about Jesus feeding the hungry disciples and doing a miracle of 153 big fishes. So we should also be a living witness for the hungry people in this world to bring them to His flocks.

**THE OLD GATE:**

This gate is otherwise called as The Jeshanah(meaning old) gate which was repaired by Joida son of Paseah and Meshullam son of Besodeiah. They laid its beams and put its doors and bolts and bars in place. (Neh 3:6).

The elders meet at this gate to discuss matters of community importance and issue judgments on disputes.(Joshua 20:4, Ruth 4:11, Pro 31:23). *The spiritual meaning of this gate is that God's moral ways do not change with dispensations and the old paths are important for us to walk in as the old covenant give way to the new covenant founded on grace. We should open our heart to accept it.*



JERUSALEM IN THE TIME OF NEHEMIAH

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**THE VALLEY GATE:**

Nehemiah 3:13 this was repaired by Hanun and the inhabitants of Zanoah. This gate leads to two valleys namely Hinnom valley where children were sacrificed by fire and Kidron valley where Jesus crossed to go to the garden of Gethsemane. *The spiritual meaning of this valley is firstly what we have taken out from, snatched from the fires of hell by the grace of god and secondly a valley we enter by choice, the valley of suffering and cleansing.(Psalms 23:4, 84:6,7*

**THE DUNG GATE:**

Nehemiah 3:14 this gate was repaired by Malchiah the son of Rechab, the ruler of part of Bethhaccerem. He built the doors, the locks and the bars. The dung gate was the exit for the city rubbish. *The spiritual meaning is that the old life to be removed by His glory. We should remove all filthy dungs like stubbornness, religiosity, lust, bitterness, fear, pride and rebellion and ask Him to give the fruits of Holy spirit. Galatians 5:22, 23*

**THE FOUNTAIN GATE:**

The fountain gate was repaired by Shallun son of Colhozeh, ruler of the district of Mizpah.(Neh 3: 15-19) This gate always have water in it, gives water to all thirsty people comes to it and was next to the pool of Siloam. *The spiritual meaning of this gate is we should be near the living water to bear fruits (Ger 49:22) and it is at the spring of living water that the holy spirit is looking for the bride (Rev22:17). The gate also represents the Holy Spirit which works with the word to save and give the new life in Jesus Christ. As Jesus is living water, we should also do the same in the short span of our life.*

**THE WATER GATE:**

We can find from the Bible that only this gate was not built. Nehemiah 3:26 says that Nethinims built the place against water gate and towards the east. The Gibeonites, who were bearers of water, carried water through this gate for the city. *The spiritual meaning is that this gate represents the Holy Bible which can not be repaired like water gate. We should read this Bible everyday so that god can speak to us through His words, saves us, cleanse us and sanctifies us. If we follow Him by reading the Bible, His spirit will teach us His ways and lead us in the righteous path. Read EPHESIANS 2:10, 5:26 and first we should clean ourselves and others to lead to His divine mercy.*

**THE HORSE GATE:**

This gate is on the eastern side of Jerusalem and next to king's palace. The soldiers of the king rode through going in and out to battle. Nehemiah 3:28. *The spiritual meaning is that this gate represents the battle of us in this world. We have to fight against Satan in our life over come evils. Proverbs 21:31. Ephesians 6:10-18. With god we can do wonders in life.*

**THE EAST GATE:**

As this gate is on the sun rising side it is called as east gate. It is also called as Golden gate. Nehemiah 3:29. The suns appear over from the eastern side and give light to the world. Similarly we should wait for our lord to come from the eastern side. *The spiritual meaning is that when Christ comes for the second time He will enter through this gate only first to collect His people. As the prophet Ezekiel had prophesized in his book this door will be opened only when Jesus Christ comes. Rev 21:22- 26.*

**THE MIPKAD GATE:**

This gate of inspection and numbering. In this gate only the Jewish people were judges. Nehemiah 3:31. I Corinthians 3:13-16, Romans 14:10-12, II Corinthians 5:10, 11, Mathews 25:31-46. *The spiritual meaning is that when Jesus Christ comes second time the East gate will open first and Jesus Christ will judge the people at this gate only. So we should lead a holy life in this world to meet Him at this gate to go and live the eternal life.*

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**THE EPHRAIM GATE:**

This gate looking towards the fruitful gate of Ephraim. Nehemiah 8:16, II Kings 14:13, II Chronicles 25:23. This means doubly fruitful. *The spiritual meaning is that He is going to come and judge both Jew and gentile.* If we catch him and walk with him, we will be blessed doubly by Jesus Christ in the world as well as in Heaven.

**THE PRISON GATE:**

This is where they kept the prisoners. Nehemiah 12:39. Peter is seen in Acts 12 being led of an angel through this gate. *The spiritual meaning is that we the prisoners has to obey the warden Jesus Christ in all the walks of our life.* I Peter 3:19 says that He preaches for the people in prison. That means its our duty to go and preach each and everyone in the dark to bring to the Glory.

These 12 gates represent the 12 gates in the Heaven. Revelation 21:12-22 where Jesus Christ is the Church. He is going to come again to judge and take us to Heaven. So it's our duty to follow His footprints by reading the Holy Bible, to follow the words and to bring many people towards His cross and glorify His name. May God bless us to do in the future.

**ARTICLES FOR THE MONTH**

**LENT**

**What is Lent?**

Historically, Lent is the forty day period before Easter, excluding Sundays; it began on Ash Wednesday and ended on Holy Saturday (the day before Easter Sunday).

**Why are Sundays excluded from the reckoning of the forty days?**

Because Sunday is the day on which Christ arose, making it an inappropriate day to fast and mourn our sins. On Sunday we must celebrate Christ's resurrection for our salvation. It is Friday on which we commemorate his death for our sins. The Sundays of the year are days of celebration and the Fridays of the year are days of penance.

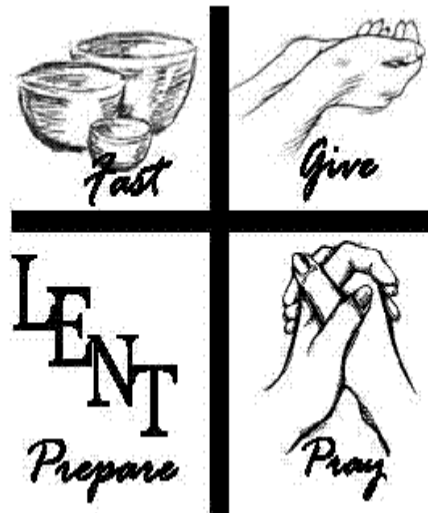
**Why the forty days are called Lent?**

They are called Lent because that is the Old English word for spring, the season of the year during which they fall. This is something unique to English. In almost all other languages its name is a derivative of the Latin term Quadragesima, or "the forty days."

**Why is Lent forty days long?**

Because forty days is a traditional number of discipline, devotion, and preparation in the Bible.

- Thus Moses stayed on the Mountain of God forty days (Exodus 24:18 and 34:28),
  - The spies were in the land for forty days (Numbers 13:25),
  - Elijah traveled forty days before he reached the cave where he had his vision (1 Kings 19:8),
  - Nineveh was given forty days to repent (Jonah 3:4),
- and most importantly, prior to undertaking his ministry,*
- Jesus spent forty days in wilderness praying and fasting (Matthew 4:2).



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Since Lent is a period of prayer and fasting, it is fitting for Christians to imitate their Lord with a forty day period.

Christ used a forty day period of prayer and fasting to prepare for his ministry, which culminated in his death and resurrection, and thus it is fitting for Christians to imitate him with a forty day period of prayer and fasting to prepare for the celebration of his ministry's climax,

Good Friday (the day of the crucifixion) and Easter Sunday (the day of the resurrection).

**DAYS WITH JESUS**

Let the days of our life be days with Jesus. Without Jesus days of the week will be,

**MOAN DAY**  
**TEARS DAY**  
**WASTE DAY**  
**THIRST DAY**  
**FIGHT DAY**  
**SHATTER DAY**  
**SIN DAY**

If you really want the days to be sweet days allow Jesus to be with you each and every moment of your life.

**STORY FOR THE MONTH**

**- JACINTH AUNTY**

There lived a small boy named Han in Germany. One day there was a big commotion going on in their village as people were running here and there. Seeing this Han ran inside the house where his brother and sister were sitting near their sick mother and nursing her. That time war was going on between Germany and France. That time the France soldiers were entering into the villages of Germany and capturing them and their things. So people were leaving the villages and running out for their lives. Since their mother was sick they couldn't move out of the house and they thought any time soldiers will enter their house. As they expected there was a big noise from the door and there entered a soldier. Immediately Han ran towards his mother's side, took the Bible, gave it to the soldier and said him **that this is the one which we all love in this house. Please take this treasure and leave us.** The soldier opened the Bible and saw the portions he has read in his childhood. He asked Han's mother, whether he can take that book. She told yes to him in order to get rid of him as well as in fear also. That soldier took the Bible, stood in front of their house and didn't allow any other soldiers to get inside the house.

Next day it was totally different as the German soldiers surrounded the villages and drew away the France soldiers from the village. That time that soldier was also shot down by the German soldier. But when he opened his eyes he was in a hospital and understood that he was saved because of the Bible which was in his pocket. He felt very happy as the Bible has saved his life.

Nearly after an year Han received a pocket which was sent by that soldier stating that he was saved by the Han's Bible in the war. He has also submitted his life to Jesus Christ and now he is in a good post also. That soldier has also written that since you gave the Bible for your mother's life that book saved me as well as changed my life. Please do work for His glory like this and accept my small token of love, this cheque.

Your friend Jerry.

Children, even you too should love Bible like Han's family and read it regularly which will guide you, speak with you and lead you in a proper way. King David in his Psalms 119:1,2 written that Blessed are that walk in the laws of the lord, blessed are that they keep His testimonies. He has also written in Psalms that your words delight me, counsel me. So, dear children love His words, follow it and He will bless you all.

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**SCRIPTURE IMPACT FOR THE MONTH**

Testimonies of people who have been touched by the Word of God through Bible Advocacy and Scripture Engagement are included in this section. Let us praise God for them and pray for them as they continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ and serve Him.

**'Hangout with Jesus – He hung out for you'**  
**Witness of International Sports personality**

**By Kaka – Midfielder: Brazil Soccer**

When I was eight, I moved to Sao Paulo, Brazil (from Cuiaba, Brazil) where I began to play soccer (football). I have always loved to play soccer. I played on the Junior Team for Sao Paulo in 2000. We were in the middle of the Paulista Junior Championships when I received a yellow card. I was suspended for the following game, so I took advantage of the free week-end to visit my grandparents, who lived in Caldas Novas at the time.

My brother, my parents, my grandparents and I went to a water park. As I was coming down one of the slides into the pool, I hit my head on the bottom of the pool and my neck snapped. I fractured the sixth vertebra in my neck. At the time, I had no idea what happened.

I came out of the pool with a strong headache, and my brother who had come down the slide right after me, asked me, "what happened?" I told him, "I hit my head on the bottom of the pool". He saw that I was bleeding and convinced me to go to the first-aid center.

From there, we went to the hospital where they took an x-ray of my neck. In the x-ray, everything looked fine. I got a few stitches in my head and that was that. I returned to Sao Paulo by train on Monday, as well as on Tuesday, all the while with a broken neck. On Tuesday, I called the coach and the physical trainer and told them that I could not bear the pain any longer. They sent me to see a doctor at the hospital where they took another x-ray. It was in this x-ray that the fracture in the sixth vertebra was shown. Everyone, including the doctors, told me



I was very lucky that nothing more serious happened. They told me that I could have become paralyzed and lost my ability to walk and to play soccer. I believe it was not luck. I believe God was protecting me during that time from anything more serious.

Many people think that I became a Christian after the accident, but that is not true. My parents are Christians and they raised me with biblical values. The accident happened in October of 2000 while I was playing in the "base" position on the Sao Paulo Junior Team. Throughout November and December, I had to wear a cervical collar and could not play.

I began to play again in January of 2001, and after about 10 or 15 days, I was called to play for the Sao Paulo professional team. Because of this, I believe God had a purpose in that accident. It is something that happened just before I had the great blessing of starring as a professional in Sao Paulo and initiating my career as a professional soccer player.

As I said before, my parents always taught me the Bible and its values, and also about Jesus Christ and faith. I did not have a specific conversion experience, but little by little, I stopped simply hearing people talk about the Jesus, my parents had taught me about, and there came a time when I wanted to live my own experiences with God. One of these experiences with God was when I was baptized at the age of 12. This was a very important step in my walk with Jesus and soon after many things began to

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happen in my life where I could experience God in a real way.

**I need Jesus every day of my life.** Jesus tells me in the Bible that without Him I cannot do anything. I have the gift and capacity today to play soccer because God gave it to me. The day He wants me to do something else, I will do that something else and this is why I need Jesus in my life every day. **I am successful in my financial life and in my professional life, but all this has come from God and is a gift of grace from Him for my life. All that I have, I thank Him for.**

The difference Jesus makes in my life is that I know I will always have victory, I will always have joy, and I will always have success. This is independent of the situations I face or will face. This brings me great peace. **I usually tell people when they ask, that the Bible is like the user's manual that comes when you buy a product. It has everything we need, in it. It makes me happy to read the Bible every day, to study it and to be in fellowship with God and learn more and more about Jesus.**

I will win many matches and I will lose many matches, but I know that in all of them, God has a plan. This is why I try to understand the plan of God for me, each moment, so that I can have peace during times of pressure.

**Everyone wants to be a winner, but for me, the true meaning of winning is having Jesus in my life.** It is a life of prayer, a life of intimacy and a life-long friendship, knowing that God is our Father. I can say that I am a winner and I am victorious because Jesus lives in my life. No, I will never stop following Him.

## **CURRENT AFFAIR FOR THE MONTH**

### **IMITATION**

The whole world is in the fever of ICC world cup 2011. First match India vs Bangladesh, India won the match. The man behind the victory. You must have heard the story about a class imitator who hails from a small town near New Delhi. Every day he would go to the grounds never by.

He would practice hard. Not only practice but imitate. Imitate whom? His hero Sachin Tendulkar. He wanted to bat like him, bowl like him; he even looks like his role model – stature wise! Whom are we talking about? Virender Sehwag - Indian cricketer who began his career by earning a name as a Sachin copy.

As Christians after we have made a commitment to follow Christ, do we have the name Jesus copy?? The only person in the planet who is worthy of total imitation is the Lord Jesus. Do we really try to imitate him?? The Scriptures exhort us to imitate him. I figured out that he was doing three things often when he walked on this earth which we can imitate.

#### **1. Spending Time With His Father**

When ever the people searched for Jesus, they found him praying alone (Luke 5:16). He went to look his father's face very early in the morning (mark 1:35). Do we do this?? We say that I don't have time to pray.

#### **2. Studying the Scriptures**

He went to Nazareth where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was His custom. And he stood up to read (Luke 4:16). He had often read the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Reading the prophets was His habit. Do we have the habit of reading the Bible daily??

#### **3. Share the Good News**

Want to be a Jesus - copier? Then, tell someone about Jesus each and every day. Jesus spoke about his father every passing day to the ones around him (Mark 10:1).

There are many things that Jesus often did, Lets copy them in our lives and become the imitator of Jesus.

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**ROUND THE BIBLE IN FORTY DAYS: THE READING PLAN**

1	Wed 9 Mar	Genesis 1 - 25
2	Thu 10 Mar	Genesis 26 - end
3	Fri 11 Mar	Exodus 1 - 30
4	Sat 12 Mar	Exodus 31 - Leviticus 19
5	Mon 14 Mar	Leviticus 20 - Numbers 15
6	Tue 15 Mar	Numbers 16 - end
7	Wed 16 Mar	Deuteronomy
8	Thu 17 Mar	Joshua 1 - Judges 5
9	Fri 18 Mar	Judges 6 - end, Ruth, 1 Samuel 1 - 9
10	Sat 19 Mar	1 Samuel 10 - 2 Samuel 5
11	Mon 21 Mar	2 Samuel 6 - 1 Kings 6
12	Tue 22 Mar	1 Kings 7 - 2 Kings 5
13	Wed 23 Mar	2 Kings 6 - 1 Chronicles 4
14	Thu 24 Mar	1 Chronicles 5 - 2 Chronicles 2
15	Fri 25 Mar	2 Chronicles 3 - end
16	Sat 26 Mar	Ezra and Nehemiah
17	Mon 28 Mar	Esther and Job
18	Tue 29 Mar	Psalms 1 - 50
19	Wed 30 Mar	Psalms 51 - 100
20	Thu 31 Mar	Psalms 101 - 150
21	Fri 1 Apr	Proverbs
22	Sat 2 Apr	Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs
23	Mon 4 Apr	Isaiah 1 - 39
24	Tue 5 Apr	Isaiah 40 - 55
25	Wed 6 Apr	Isaiah 56 - Jeremiah 18
26	Thu 7 Apr	Jeremiah 1 9- 48
27	Fri 8 Apr	Jeremiah 49 - end, Lamentations, Ezekiel 1 - 15
28	Sat 9 Apr	Ezekiel 16 - end
29	Mon 11 Apr	Daniel
30	Tue 12 Apr	Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah
31	Wed 13 Apr	Nahum, Habbakuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi
32	Thu 14 Apr	Matthew
33	Fri 15 Apr	Mark
34	Sat 16 Apr	Luke
35	Mon 18 Apr	John
36	Tue 19 Apr	Acts
37	Wed 20 Apr	Romans, 1 Corinthians
38	Thu 21 Apr	2 Cor., Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1&2 Thess.
39	Fri 22 Apr	1&2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James
40	Sat 23 Apr	1&2 Peter, 1,2&3 John, Jude, Revelation

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