



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



**GOD'S PROMISE FOR THIS MONTH**

***TURN UNTO THE STRONG HOLD, YE PRISONERS OF HOPE; EVEN TODAY DO I DECLARE THAT I WILL  
RENDER DOUBLE UNTO THEE.*** **ZECHARIAH 9: 12.**

**MESSAGE FOR THE MONTH**

By A.Johnson (Catechist)

*Beloved in Christ,*

*Greetings to you in the marvelous name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and a Special Christmas greetings to you all in this joyful month.*

*"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a son is given" Isaiah 9:6*

*In Old Testament times God appeared to people in various ways to Abraham through heavenly messengers, to Moses out of the burning bush. They were afraid because of God's awesomeness. But centuries later the angel of the Lord appeared to shepherds and announced. "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord". Yes, God became a man so that we would not be afraid to draw near to God. When the eternal Son of God was born in a lowly stable in Bethlehem, He came as one of us. He came, "in the likeness of men" - Phil 2:7, so that he might live and die in our place.*

*As our substitute, He lived the perfect life we couldn't live. And He died the death we, as sinners should have died. The "wages of sin is death" - Rom. 6:23. And now salvation, forgiveness of sin, and life eternal can be received and enjoyed by all who put their trust in Him, the Crucified, risen savior. And its all because He came as one of us.*

*This Christmas season lets thank God for sending Jesus to bring the peace of sins forgiven. And let's share that message with someone who hasn't found the peace proclaimed by the angels long ago.*

*When Christ rules the heart, peace reign's supreme. So let us worship him "the Preeminent One". Peace be with you always. Amen.*

**STORY FOR THE MONTH**

Behold, a virgin shall bring forth a son call Him Emmanuel, means God with us. Matthews 1: 23. Is Christ with us? Are you thinking like that? No, don't think like that because God is with us always till the end of the world.

Long back war was going on in United States of America. That time son of an old man was forced to join the army. That old man got news stating that there was terrific war going on. He was daily waiting anxiously to get good news about his son but in vain only. Even after many days too, he didn't get any news about his son. When he enquired about him, he got news stating that he might have died in the war as he is not present during daily attendance taken by the high officials.

Hearing this old father felt very bad. Immediately he went from his house to the place where war was going on. The old man went in search of the person whom he loves more than himself.

When he reached the place where war was going, he turned to each face of the body which was lying down there but he couldn't get the person whom he was searching. It has become dark now but the old father did not stop. He lighted the light which he has brought and started searching him. Suddenly due to heavy wind the light went off. Dear children, what do you think? What he must have done?

What he did you know, with all his power and might he started shouting JOHN HATSMAN YOUR FATHER HAS COME. He had many painful sounds but didn't get his sons. The father did not stop. He was shouting continuously. Suddenly from a far place he got a sound telling, Dad I am here. That father praised God and went towards his son, took him to hospital and brought him back to his original life.

Like this father, our Lord Jesus is also calling you by name. Not only during this Christmas season but everyday and anytime to give you the Eternal life. To remember this we celebrate the Christmas. We should not forget His sound among our celebrations. Matthew 1: 21 say that she shall

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bring forth a son and thou shalt call Him Jesus; for He shall save His people from their sins. Let us surrender ourselves to that Jesus during this Christmas season and get His blessing in our life. Wish you all a Happy Christmas and May God help you all to celebrate this Christmas meaningfully.

## ARTICLES FOR THE MONTH

### Is God-Intended Communication Disappearing?

"Oh how awful—like, how did you survive?!" one young adult expressed to me recently, "How did you communicate?" All I told him was that when I was in high school, Facebook, YouTube, MySpace, Twitter, instant messaging and cell phones didn't exist. But he had a good question. How did anybody survive without social networking? While throttling forward in your life, trying to keep up with everything, do you ever feel like you'd just like to sit down with maybe a glass of iced tea or a latte and *just talk to someone*—to connect with a live, breathing, speaking, in-the-flesh human being? If you do, you're not alone—and what you want is what God intended.

#### **How helpful is electronic communication?**

Research and studies show that although we "think" we're communicating more effectively through all our electronic gadgets and programs, we may not actually be.

During sessions in my practice as a professional counselor, I've clearly stated that, while in session, *all* portable electronic devices must be turned off. Why? Because otherwise there is a constant barrage of texts, e-mails and calls that "just have to" be answered—interfering with clear communication in the sessions.

Consequently, many today explain, "My husband and I"—or "My child and I," or "My friend and I"—"just don't communicate anymore. There is always an interruption of some kind just when we really start to talk." Some clients explain that they have trouble communicating with God because, as they state in terms like this: "I've never really understood what it means to talk to anyone face to face, much less to talk to God!"

A business owner told me this story: "I receive an inquiry from my website contact page. Then I follow up with an estimate via e-mail, receive approval, complete the job, send an invoice and receive payment —without ever having to even see or speak to the customer." How good is that—or how bad?

#### **How God communicates**

God is very real, and we human beings He created are very real too. But the businessman's and counseling clients' experiences made me stop to consider. Is our electronic media stealing the deep communication God intended for us?

Throughout the Bible, we see examples where people interacted with God personally. Abraham, the father of the faithful, talked personally with God (**Genesis:17:1** And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect., 22). Jacob, the grandson of Abraham, talked with God face to face (**Genesis:32:30** And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.). Moses, who led Israel out of Egypt, spoke with God "face to face, as a man speaks to his friend" (**Exodus:33:11** And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle.).

Much later when the apostle John desired to be with his brothers and sisters in Christ, he wrote, "I hope to visit you and talk things over with you personally. Then we will be completely filled with joy" (2 John 12, God's Word Translation). God desires the same with us. It's good to know that when we pray we're personally talking to Him and that He is listening.

#### **Technological failure to communicate deeply**

So just how is interpersonal communication today being weakened by technology?

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There are certain benefits to electronic media and social networking. Most of us use them on a daily basis, me included. However, research has long shown that the majority (55 percent) of our communication is nonverbal. Nonverbal communication—or body language—includes facial expression, gestures, eye contact and posture. Another 38 percent of communication is vocal tone, while only 7 percent is the actual meaning of the words.

E-mail and texting has no body language, nor does it convey tone of voice you experience in a face-to-face conversation. Texting, we find out, is effectively robbing today's younger generation of proper writing and spelling skills. Even advertising on some billboards now reflects the texting jargon.

Challenges may be caused by the use of texting and Facebook chat due to the rate by which questions are asked and topics are changed. Rapidly asking question after question is great for trying to learn a lot of different things about a person, but there are often never any deep conversations, especially since SMS-type messages only allow 160 characters.

How many times have you been affected by or involved in a serious communication breakdown that was able to be resolved by talking face to face?

### Healthy communication how-tos

Young people often experience social detachment while engrossing themselves in electronic media. Sadly, parents sometimes give a handheld game to a child and state, "Now, go play somewhere, and be quiet. We'll talk later." Then, after "later" comes without any meaningful communication, one or the other at some point remarks, "We never talk, and this happens all the time!"

Psychologists and counselors through the ages have discussed the need we all have for interaction and communication to remain healthy. God made human beings with the deep need to communicate not only with Him as their Creator but with each other. So, how then can you build the habit of healthy communication with and without electronic media?

1. Make a conscious effort every day to have a real-life, face-to-face conversation with someone.
2. Step away from or turn off your device and talk with the person directly.
3. Don't "check in" on Facebook or other social media sites for one whole day—and see if the world has stopped.
4. Look for opportunities to reconnect with friends or colleagues in a face-to-face setting at a meal or over tea or coffee.
5. Realize that we all can have solid, God-based friendships with other people without ever using any social electronic media.

Remember, there is a time and place for texting or status updates. But every day is the time and many are the places for healthy face-to-face conversations. Talk to people and enjoy the body language, tone of voice *and* the meaning of their words—as God intended!

### The Secret of Christmas

It's not the glow you feel when snow appears,  
It's not the Christmas card you've sent for years,  
Not the joyful sound when sleigh bells ring,  
Or the merry songs children sing.

The little things you do on Christmas Day  
Will not bring back the friend you've turned away.  
So may I suggest the secret of Christmas  
Is not the things you do at Christmas time,

- ❖ Dec 10<sup>th</sup> (4pm) – Carol Round
- ❖ Dec 11<sup>th</sup> (10am) – Holy Communion (Rev. Dr. Bhagyam Samuel)
- ❖ Dec 18<sup>th</sup> (10am) – Carol Service & Christmas Tree
- ❖ Dec 25<sup>th</sup> (6am) – Christmas Service
- ❖ Dec 31<sup>st</sup> (11.30pm) – New Year Service

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But the little things you do all year through.

## CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS



- ✧ Be the first to wish everyone you meet a Merry Christmas.
- ✧ Mend a broken relationship with someone during the advent days.
- ✧ Make an effort to attend every Christmas party you're invited to, even if you can only stay a few minutes.
- ✧ Adopt a needy family for the holidays. Let members of your family buy a present for the person closest to their own age.
- ✧ Before going to bed on Christmas Eve, read by candle light about the birth of Jesus in Luke 2.
- ✧ Go caroling.
- ✧ Instead of the usual bedtime stories, read to your children about the Christmas customs in other countries.
- ✧ Never write the word Christmas as Xmas.
- ✧ On Christmas morning, phone some relatives who live far away and wish them a Merry Christmas.
- ✧ Enjoy Christmas music in your home, office, and car.
- ✧ Talk with your children about the first Christmas.
- ✧ Be a generous giver.

### MEMORY VERSES FOR THIS MONTH

04/12/2011 1 PETER 2: 3.

18/12/2011 DEUTERNOMY 4: 7.

11/12/2011 MATHEWS 1:21(B).

25/12/2011 LUKE 2: 11.

### BIBLE QUIZ FOR THE MONTH

#### DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT JESUS BIRTH:

1. How many generations after Abraham was Jesus born? MATHEW 1: 17
2. To which priestly division did John the Baptist father belong to? LUKE 1: 5.
3. What was the difference in age between John the Baptist and Jesus? LUKE 1: 26, 36.
4. Which prophet prophesized the name Immanuel to Jesus? ISAIAH 7: 14
5. Where in the church Zechariah see the angel of the lord? LUKE 1:11
6. Who succeeded Herod, the king in Judea? MATHEW 2: 22
7. Who was the governor of Syria when the census was taken? LUKE 2: 2
8. Give the Old Testament reference where it is mentioned, "pair of dove or two young pigeons are to be offered as sacrifice" LEVITIES 12: 6 - 8
9. Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit? MATHEW 1: 20
10. Who was filled joy when they saw the bright star? MATHEW 2: 10

#### ANSWERS OF THE PETTY THINGS USED FOR GREATER FROM THE BIBLE:

- |                      |                           |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. EXODUS 17 : 5,6 . | 6. JOHN 6 : 9-11.         |
| 2. JUDGES 15 : 16 .  | 7. I CHORINTHIANS 1 : 27. |
| 3. I SAMUEL 17:49 .  | 8. I KING 18 : 44 .       |
| 4. ZACHERIA 4 : 10.  | 9. ACTS 19 : 12 .         |
| 5. LUKE 13:19.       | 10. JOHN 2 : 7,8.         |

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**Merry Xmas  
&  
A Blessed New Year**