



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



GOD'S PROMISE FOR THIS MONTH

சுர்த்தருடைய உடன்படிக்கையையும் அவருடைய சாட்சிகளையும் கைக்கொள்ளுகிறவர்களுக்கு, அவருடைய பாதைகளெல்லாம் கிருபையும் சத்தியமுமானவைகள். -சங்கீதம் 25:10

MESSAGE FOR THE MONTH

Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, Greetings in the Name of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ who has guided us so gently till today, surely goodness and mercy have followed us all through. God has graciously brought us into another month; let's love Him more, praise Him more, and serve Him more! I prayerfully greet you that you may grow in all graces. This month God's promise for us "You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame". Joel 2:26.

Promise of Restoration

God promises to deliver them from their enemies. He promises to feed them, bless them and satisfy them one more time. If their will come to Him, He will restore them to a place of blessing. We all want Him to deliver us from our enemies. We all want Him to feed us and bless us again. Every true child of God has a burden to see the Lord move among His people one more time. There is still hope of that happening!

Promise of Revival

God promises to send both the "former" and "latter" rains. They came just in time to ensure that the harvest would be bountiful. God also promised to replace everything that had been lost during the days of drought and devastation. He is promising a revival of His blessings on the land! This is what we need in our day! We

need the Lord to open the windows of Heaven and erase this spiritual drought we have been living under. We need Him to send the heavenly rains upon us one more time. We need Him to give us back everything the enemy has tried to take away from us. We need a revival of His manifest presence among His people. We need a revival of His power in our services. We need a revival of the conviction of God on the hearts of the lost. We need a revival of holiness in the church. We need a revival! We need a revival! It's our only hope! It's the only hope for our families, our communities, our churches and our nation.

Promise of Rejoicing

God's people will experience His blessings and they will be satisfied. They will praise Him. They will worship Him and exalt Him. They will hold their heads high before their enemies and no longer will they be the object of shame. They will be blessed once again and they will rejoice in their new condition.

May God bless you all.



STORY FOR THE MONTH

St. John de Brito (அருளானந்தர்)

John de Brito was the scion of a powerful aristocratic Portuguese family; his father, Salvador de Brito Pereira, died while serving as Viceroy of the Portuguese colony of Brazil. He joined the Jesuits in 1662, studying at the famous University of Coimbra. He traveled to the missions of Madurai, in Southern India, present-day Tamil Nadu, in 1673 and preached the Christian religion in the region of the Maravar country. He renamed himself Arul Anandar (அருளானந்தர்) in Tamil. The ruler of the Maravar country imprisoned him in 1684. Having been expelled, he returned to Lisbon in 1687 and worked as a missions procurator. King Pedro II wanted him to stay, but in 1690 he returned to the Maravar country with 24 new missionaries.

The Madurai Mission was a bold attempt to establish an Indian Catholic Church that was relatively free of European cultural domination. As such, Brito learned the native languages,

went about dressed in yellow cotton, and lived like a தமிழ் Thiruvai/Sanyaasi, abstaining from every kind of animal food and from wine. St. John de Brito tried to teach the Christian faith in categories and concepts that would make sense to the people he taught. This method, proposed and practiced by Roberto de Nobili, met with remarkable success. Britto remained a strict vegan until the end of his life, rejecting meat, fish, eggs and alcohol, and living only on legumes, fruits and herbs. Impelled by the zeal to announce the good news of Christ to all peoples and cultures, John de Britto traveled on foot, on horseback and bullock cart all over Tamil Nadu and elsewhere.

John de Brito's preaching led to the conversion of Thadiyathevan (தடியத் தேவன்), a Marava prince who had several wives. When Thadiyathevan was required to dismiss all his wives but one, a serious problem arose. One

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of the wives was a niece of the neighboring king, the Sethupathi (சேதுபதி) who took up her quarrel and began a general persecution of Christians. De Brito and the catechists were taken and carried to the capital, Ramnad, the Brahmins clamouring for his death. Thence he was led to Oriyur (ஓரியூர்), some thirty miles northward along the coast, where he was executed on 4 February 1693.

On February 4, 1693 at Oriyur in Tamil Nadu, the blood he had shed for the Christian faith, so attests the long cherished tradition, has miraculously turned the soil at the site of his martyrdom into red color. No wonder John de Britto is popularly called even today the Red Sand Saint!

Next to St. Thomas the Apostle, Britto is the only martyr-Saint in India to date.

BIRTH OF A SONG (Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me)

One of the most beloved German hymn writers, Paul Gerhardt, was born on this day, March 12, 1607. Nearly two thirds of Paul's life was lived during the Thirty Years War. The fighting of that terrible struggle ravaged Central Europe, and Paul endured much personal and family misfortune during this time. But his suffering gave power, depth, and beauty to his hymns, and he learned to sing of his faith under trying circumstances. His inner peace of soul was anchored in the Peace of God, as is apparent from the words of his hymn, "Commit Thou all Thy Grievs..."



"Commit thou all thy griefs
And ways into His hands,
To His sure truth and tender care,
Who heaven and earth commands."

Gerhardt was not able to obtain a settled position until his mid-40's, so he worked as a private tutor. At forty-five he was offered the pastorate of a Church in the small village of Mittenwalde. He was finally able to marry Anna Maria Barthold, the woman he had long loved; and to publish the hymns he had been writing for many years. In 1657 Paul was called as an assistant pastor to the great cathedral in Berlin. There he enjoyed fame as a preacher and was honored as a man of piety and good works.

In 1664 he refused to sign a declaration issued by Elector Frederick Wilhelm I forbidding the free discussion of the differences between the Lutherans and Reformed Churches. Paul believed God was a loving person, not merely a fighter for dogma; and that Christians of different views should be able to discuss their differences. For this he was deposed from his office and no longer allowed to practice his clerical functions. But two years later he was given a lower-ranking church appointment.

However, Gerhardt continued to minister through his hymns, which have become a strong part of the Lutheran tradition. Of his 120 hymns, 40 are still in common use. Gerhardt translated Bernard of Clairvaux's "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" into German; his German translation is the basis of the most-used English version. John and Charles Wesley were deeply moved by Gerhardt's hymns and translated several into English, including "Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me." Three centuries later, during his imprisonment by the Nazis, the theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer found solace in Paul Gerhardt's hymns, which he had known since childhood.

ARTICLES FOR THE MONTH

Twenty-third Psalm – Explained

This is an eye opener; probably we never thought about it nor looked at this Psalm in this way, even though it is very familiar to us!

The Lord is my Shepherd ----- that's Relationship!

I shall not want ----- that's Supply!

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures ---- that's Rest!

He leadeth me beside the still waters ----- that's Refreshment!

He restoreth my soul ----- that's Healing!

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness ----- that's Guidance!

For His name sake ----- that's Purpose!

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death ----- that's Testing!

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I will fear no evil ----- that's Protection!
 For Thou art with me ----- that's Faithfulness!
 Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me ----- that's Discipline!
 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies ----- that's Hope!
 Thou annointest my head with oil ----- that's Consecration!
 My cup runneth over ----- that's Abundance!
 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life ----- that's Blessing!
 And I will dwell in the house of the Lord ----- that's Security!
 Forever ----- that's Eternity!

Face it, the Lord is concerned about you. What is most valuable is not what we have in our lives, but the one WHOM we have in our lives!

BIBLE QUIZ FOR THE MONTH

Across

- 1 Chariot pullers (6)
- 4 Flung (5)
- 7 Backbiters (10)
- 8 Used in the healing of a blind man (4)
- 9 Place of sacrifice (5)
- 11 Gift (7)
- 13 Area where disciples were from (7)
- 15 Cymbal player (5)
- 17 Covetousness (4)
- 18 Aaron, for example (4,6)
- 20 Reddish (5)
- 21 Misgivings (6)

Down

- 1 Aromatic herb (6)
- 2 Food seasoner (4)

- 3 The sound of a choir (7)
- 4 Between eta and iota (5)
- 5 Regret (3)
- 6 More like Solomon (5)
- 7 Jael's victim (6)
- 10 A unit of measure (6)
- 12 Lingered (7)
- 14 Blinded false prophet (6)
- 15 Son of Jacob (5)
- 16 Elated (5)
- 17 Lost his father's blessing to Jacob (4)
- 19 The Almighty (3)



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