



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



GOD'S PROMISE FOR THIS MONTH

"THOU WILT KEEP HIM IN PERFECT PEACE WHOSE MIND IS STAYED ON THEE"

ISAIAH 26:3, KJV.

MESSAGE FOR THE MONTH

Dn.S.Augustin M.A, B.D.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Loving greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.,
 First of all I thank God Almighty for giving me the wonderful opportunity to serve among
 the congregation of CSI Bethesda Tamil Church. For this month meditation I chose the text Nehemiah 2:18b.

"Let us rise up and build". So they strengthened their hands for the good work.

First, Nehemiah had an **attitude of faith**. He had remarkable confidence in God. This faith apparently never wavered. Nehemiah wanted to see God's purposes fulfilled (1:1-4). He expressed his concern in his inquiry and sorrow. His prayer and sorrow show his confidence in God's power (1:5—2:4; 4:9). Furthermore, he purposed to cooperate with God so God's will would happen. He expressed this commitment in his activity.

Second, Nehemiah also **acted in faith**. We can see his faith in three activities. He acted **cautiously** (5:7). He examined the wall secretly and silently. Then he divided the work so every man built near his own house. This guaranteed the personal interest and diligence of the workers. He also acted **courageously** (13:11, 17). He started by himself, singlehandedly. Then he stuck with the work tenaciously until he finished it. And he acted without **compromise**. He did not compromise with the enemies outside the wall. They tried to get him to compromise by using contempt (4:3), then conspiracy (4:8), and then cunning (6:2). And he did not compromise with the Jews inside the wall, either. He did not allow the nobles to continue charging their poorer brothers interest (5:5). He did not allow a priest to give lodging to the enemy (13:4-5). Furthermore, he did not permit mixed marriages with non-Jews (13:23).

Third, Nehemiah **achieved by faith**. The workers built the walls in only 52 days. Nehemiah settled the people in the city and its suburbs. He expounded and enforced the Law of God. He also provided a place where the people could wait for God's salvation.

Combining Nehemiah's times with his character, we get the message of this book. Nehemiah proves that seemingly **impossible things are possible through prayer and hard work** when people determine to trust and obey God, and when they put His interests first. Like Nehemiah, we live in dark times. We too have to deal with indifferent multitudes. As in his day, there is widespread disloyalty to God's truth today. As then, there is lack of enthusiasm for God's plans and purposes now. Not many Christians want to devote their every waking moment to the task that God has commanded us to do (Matt. 28:19-20). Like Nehemiah, we need to walk by faith in these dark times (cf. Hab. 2:4). We also need to decline all compromise with those outside and inside the church. We need to trust God, do our day's work faithfully, and leave the future to Him. May we all follow this great man's example of faith.

May God bless you all.



STORY FOR THE MONTH

Adoniram Judson - Missionary to Burma, 1813-1850

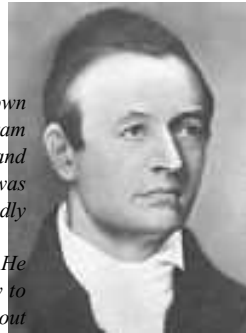
A dark-eyed baby boy lay in his old fashioned cradle more than one hundred and twenty-four years ago. In the little town of Malden, Massachusetts, August 9, 1788, this child was born, and named Adoniram, after his father, who was Rev. Adoniram Judson, a Congregational minister in that far-away time. The father, and the mother, too, thought this baby a wonderful child, and determined that he should do a great deal of good in the world. They thought that the best way to get him ready for a great work was to begin early to teach him as much as he could possibly learn. Long pieces were given him to commit to memory when he was hardly more than a baby, and he learned to read when he was three. Think of it!

When he was four, he liked best of all to gather all the children in the neighbourhood about him and play church. He always preached the sermon himself, and his favourite hymn was, "Go, preach My Gospel, saith the Lord." This was a good way to have a happy time, and he wasn't a bit too young to think about telling others the Good News, for he was old enough to know about Jesus and His love.

The little Adoniram, like boys who live now, liked to find out about things himself. When he was seven, he thought he would see if the sun moved. For a long time he lay flat on his back in the morning sunlight, looking up to the sky through a hole in his hat. He was away from home so long that he was missed, and his sister discovered him, with his swollen eyes nearly blinded by the light. He told her that he had "found out about the sun's moving," but did not explain how he knew.

At ten this boy studied Latin and Greek, and at sixteen he went to Brown University, from which he was graduated, as valedictorian of his class, when he was nineteen. He was a great student, loving study, and ambitious to do and be something very grand and great indeed. Two years after this, he became a Christian, and then came a great longing to be a minister, and he studied diligently with this end in view. There was one question which this splendid young man asked about everything, and this was, "Is it pleasing to God?" He put this question in several places in his room so that he would be sure to see and remember it.

Mr. Judson taught school for a while, wrote some school-books, and traveled about to see the world. After some years he read a little book called "The Star in the East." It was a missionary book, and turned the young man's thoughts to missions. At last he seemed to hear a voice saying, "Go ye," and with all his heart he said, "I will go." From that moment he never once faltered in his determination to be a missionary. His thoughts turned towards Burma, and he longed to go there. About this time Mr. Judson met the



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four young men who had held a prayer-meeting in the rain, when they sheltered themselves in a haystack, and there promised God to serve Him as missionaries if He would send them out. These five were of one heart, and were much together encouraging one another. There was no money to send out missionaries, and Mr. Judson was sent to London to see if the Society there would promise some support. The ship was captured by a privateer, and the young man made prisoner, but he found an American who got him out of the filthy cell. This man came in, wearing a large cloak, and was allowed to go into the cell to see if he knew any of the prisoners. When he came to Mr. Judson he threw his cape over him, hiding him from the jailer, and got him out safely, giving him a piece of money, and sending him on his way. The London Society was not ready to take up the support of American missionaries, but not long after this, the American Board, in Boston, sent him to Burma, with his lovely young bride, whose name, as a girl, was Ann Hasseltine. It took a year and a half to reach the field in Rangoon, Burma, and get finally settled, in a poor, forlorn house, ready to study the language. By this time, Mr. Judson was taken under the care of the Baptist Board, just organized, as he felt that he belonged there. The Burmans were sad heathen, and the fierce governors of the people were called "Eaters." The work was very hard, but the missionary said that the prospects were "bright as the promises of God." When he was thirty-one and had been in Burma six years, he baptized the first convert to Christianity. The preparation of a dictionary, and the translation of the New Testament, now occupied much time.

After this came great trouble. It was war time. Missionaries were unwelcome. Dr. Judson was put in a dreadful prison. After great suffering there, his wife was allowed to take him to a lion's cage, left empty by the lion's death. She put the translation of the New Testament in a case, and it was used for a pillow. After he left the prison, a servant of Dr. Judson's found and preserved the precious book. Set free at last, he went on with his work. Death came to his home again and again, and trials bitter to bear. For thirty-seven years he toiled on, several times returning to America, but hastening back to his field. By that time there were sixty-three churches in Burma, under the care of one hundred and sixty-three missionaries and helpers, and over seven thousand converts had been baptized. Worn out with long labour, the hero-missionary, stricken with fever, was sent home, only to die on shipboard, and his body was buried at sea.



ARTICLES FOR THE MONTH

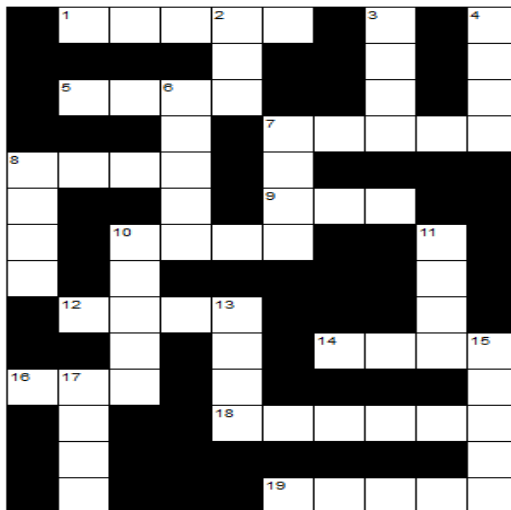
Kintsukuroi is a Japanese art form. It means "to repair with gold". When the Japanese mend broken objects (especially pottery), they increase its reputation by repairing the damage by filling the cracks with a lacquer resin sprinkled with powdered gold.

The Japanese believe, when something has suffered damage, it can become more beautiful than before. Earlier it was an object, now it has a history. Its value has increased. Its significance has increased.

It's a great visual reminder that all of us have our cracks/brokenness. Brokenness is an existential reality—broken marriages, broken homes, emotional brokenness, physical brokenness, spiritual brokenness—we live in a fractured and broken world. Thankfully, brokenness is not our final reality. All we need to do is to fill the cracks with gold. The gold reminds us of the psalmists writes, "He heals the broken hearted and binds up their wounds" *Psalms 147:3* when we were broken yet he will mend us. The gold also reminds us, the broken pieces can be and must be repaired; its value will increase. The gold also reminds us, in joining the pieces; let's enhance the wonder and majesty of our life.

Kintsukuroi makes me feel I am more interesting than I cared to believe earlier! It makes me recognize my weaknesses that caused me to break. It also makes me aware those weaknesses must be filled for my value to increase by His way. "A broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise". *Psalm 51:17*

BIBLE QUIZ FOR THE MONTH



ACROSS

1. Last letter in the Greek alphabet, used to describe Jesus.
5. This was in the beginning with God.
7. Shall not the _____ of all the earth do right?
8. Christians will attend the marriage supper of this.
9. Jesus is called the _____ of God.
10. Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable _____.
12. As a man of renowned power or authority.
14. Jesus said he is this, and His Father is the husbandman.
16. Jesus is the _____, the Truth, and the Life.
18. The Lord is my defence; and my God is the rock of my _____.
19. John was sent to bear witness of that _____.

DOWN

2. Jesus is also _____.
3. Jesus is called the _____ of the Church.
4. Jesus said, I am the way, the truth, and the _____.
6. As a teacher, Jesus was also this.
7. Ye denied the Holy One and the _____, and desired a murderer.
8. I am the rose of Sharon, and the _____ of the valleys.
10. They crucified the Lord of _____.
11. Jesus is the _____ of the tribe of Judah.
13. Jesus said, if any man enter in by this, he shall be saved.
15. In Zion, Jesus is called a chief corner stone, precious, and this _____.
17. Name used when talking to the church of the Laodiceans.

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Generous Giving of God (Malachi 3:10) - 6th Jul'14
My Church (1Corinthians 1:10) - 13th Jul'14
Miracle & Conversion (Luke 18:43) - 20th Jul'14
Gifts & The Fruit (1Corinthians 13:2) - 27th Jul'14