



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



GOD'S PROMISE FOR THIS MONTH

அவன் கர்த்தரைத் தேடின நாட்களில் தேவன் அவன் காரியங்களை வாய்க்கச் செய்தார். - நாளாகமம் 26: 5

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,

"And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised. (Hebrews 6:15)"

In an age of fast food, electronic mail and instant everything, the art of waiting on God is disappearing fast. The modern generation may soon forget the spelling of patience. Even if a preacher may occasionally speak on patience, the trend of the times is such that the congregation will leave the service with the prayer, "OK Lord, give us patience, but give it right now!"

The God of the Bible is known for waiting. He never acts in haste. His very name is the "God of Patience" (Rom 15:5). In all His dealings with man, sinner or saint, He is patient throughout. If He had not been so, every one of us would have perished long ago. As He is patient with us, it is only right that He expects us to be patient in our relationship with Him. This is what the Bible calls as "Waiting on God." So much is preached and published on the subjects of prayer, worship and meditation. But specific teaching on waiting on God is scarce though this exercise is quite essential for Christian discipleship and growth.

Paul and Penny stand before the pastor, after anticipating this day for months. They promise they'll be faithful and true in sickness, or in health, riches or rags, until death separates them. But five years later, Paul comes home and says, 'I'm out of here, Penny. You no longer meet my needs. You no longer captivate my heart.' And he walks away from the promises he made, leaving his wife and family behind.

The Bible you hold in your hands is packed full of promises — more than 4,000 in number. Many of you have promise boxes sitting on your kitchen table or promise books stuffed in your back pocket. But today, there are those in our midst who would say, 'My heart is broken because I don't think the Lord has kept His promise to me. I claimed the promise. I prayed it in. I wrote it on a 3x5 card and stuck it on my mirror. But nothing happened.'

Maybe, like Penny, you're in that place today. If so, Hebrews chapter 6 is a highly important text for you to consider. In verse 12, we are exhorted to follow those who went before us and obtained the promise by faith. The author of Hebrews uses one man specifically as an illustration — Abraham, the father of faith. After Abraham patiently endured, he obtained the promise.

What promise? You know the story . . . Abraham was 75 years old when, in Genesis 12, he was told to leave his home and

father to go to a new land, where God would give him offspring as the stars overhead. This must have blown Abraham's mind, for he and his wife Sarah had no children at that time. Off he goes on his journey, this father of faith, and sure enough, God gave him a son from whom an entire nation was born. But it didn't happen immediately. In fact, it took 25 years.

And in this there is a hugely important spiritual principle which needs to be part of your life: There is very often a gap of time between the promise and the performance of the promise. In Abraham's case, the gap of time was 25 years. We read that after Abraham patiently endured, he obtained the promise.

For while it is true that Abraham patiently endured and obtained the promise, it is also true that when he was in his mid-80's, Sarah said, 'I know God promised you we would produce a nation. But let's be reasonable. Ten years have come and gone since we heard from Him — and nothing's happened. I'm long past the age of child-bearing, so have relations with my handmaid, and the child produced will count as ours.' Abraham agreed to Sarah's suggestion, and a baby named Ishmael was the result. Ishmael was not the promised child — but rather an attempt by Abraham and Sarah to try to help God fulfill His promise.

And as is always the case whenever we try to help God out, Ishmael only made matters worse, for Ishmael became the father of the Arab nation. The promised son, Isaac, would come through Sarah 13 years after Ishmael was born. Whatever the task is that God has called us to, we need to continue doing the work even if we don't see the progress we would like to see. Even Jesus was teaching His disciples until the moment of His death. Jesus is an example of patience for us.

The danger of impatience is that we might miss the Lord's perfect plan and His blessing. Only when we trust our Father's will and timing can we rest peacefully. What causes you stress? Carefully examine whether you are taking matters into your own hands or releasing the circumstance to almighty God. Listen to Psalm 37:7, which says, "Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him." Seek His way and His timing. Anything else can be destructive.

It is dangerous to become too busy to find time to wait on God because of the pressures of ministry and the demands of work. Waiting time is not a wasted time. The time spent in waiting to find the will of God will be saved while carrying it out. Waiting on knees brings us to our journey's end quicker than walking on foot!

"Waiting for His Working"

STORY FOR THE MONTH

Roberto De Nobili (Roman Brahmin)

Many Portuguese missionaries followed Vasco da Gama (1498 A.D.) to India, and Goa became a center of Christianity and

part of papal hierarchy in the East. Society of Jesus (SJ) founded by Ignatius Loyola in (1542 A.D.) induced many enthusiastic youngsters to the church and serve Christ and spread Christianity

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among heathens. St. Francis Xavier (of S.J.) was the first missionary to arrive in Goa, whose sole ambition was to convert non-believers. The Portuguese missionaries who followed him continued the work from Kochi, Kranganur and Mylapur.

But Roberto De Nobili was the first ascetic who tried hard to understand true Indian spirit and tried to Indianize preaching and spreading Christ's message. He worked very hard to endear himself to masses, by adopting Hindu customs. Roberto De Nobili was born in Rome in 1577 A.D., and was related to the royal family. His father was a general of the papal army which fought the Turks during crusades. Roberto was spiritually inclined at a very young age and dreamt of working as a missionary in the East. He was inspired by the adventurous life of the missionaries in parts of Africa, Japan, and other eastern countries. He received no encouragement at home and ran away to join church. He did all menial jobs like scrubbing and washing vessels and helping in kitchen, but studied logic, science, theology, etc., and finally qualified himself to become a preceptor.

He started for India. After a disastrous journey which took more than a year he reached Goa in 1605. He found that converted Goans were Christians only in name. Most of them came from very poor family and had no inclination to lead a pious life. Later, he stayed with pearl gatherers of fisheries coast and was touched by their miserable existence. In those days pearls of India were in great demand in Rome and fetched fabulous price. But the divers who collected them were among the poorest. He started learning Tamil from these fishermen. But for lack of textbooks and written word, he could not progress.

He went to Madurai--The temple city, which was a great cultural center and started learning Tamil, Telugu as well as various Hindu manners and customs. He found very close resemblance between life of Hindu monks and Christian missionaries. He tried to convince the locals that he himself was an ascetic having given up all worldly attachments. But people were not convinced. They thought all "parangis" (foreigners) were unclean, ate beef and drank liquor. Roberto had a tough time.

He was convinced that converting only the poorest brought no credit to Christ. He had great admiration for brahmins, who were very much respected in society and thought converting some brahmin scholars will help him serve his mission better.

He started wearing ochre-ropes, wooden shoes; gave up meat and carried danda (stick) and kamandalu (water jug) like a Hindu monk. He started wearing Gandha (Sandal paste) and shaved his head. But he was careful enough to obtain prior permission from Archbishop stationed at Cranganur. He engaged a Brahmin cook, ate only rice and vegetables and started sleeping on the floor. He spent time studying Sanskrit and holy books besides writing Christian psalms and prayers in Tamil. Opened a school of catechism and slowly started introducing Christian theology. He became an "Iyer" (preceptor) to local people who started venerating him for his austere life, kind manners and healing powers which he had acquired modestly.



Thus he had to face opposition from both the church and the locals, and was imprisoned in the absence of the royal patron and on one occasion, was about to be killed. But timely return of king Tirumala of Madurai, saved Nobili's life. He was shifted from Madurai and sent to Jaffna (Sri Lanka) by the Church. But here also he continued writing books. He wanted to spend his last days in Madurai only, but was kept in Mylapore near Madras.

He had converted 1208 members of higher caste and 2675 of lower castes in an area where there was not a single Christian earlier. In Jaffna along with other associates 40,000 were made Christians. In Mylapore he was called "O Santho Padre." (saintly priest). He was old, partially blind and frail but kept his austere habits and vegetarian food habits. Some friends tried to make him drink chicken soup when he became extremely weak, but he threw away the bowl and observed fast unto death like any Indian ascetic (1656 January 16th.) There is no tomb or any memorial connected with his name at Madurai, Mylapore or Salem but hundreds of letters he wrote to his sister, friends and the Church throw light on his pioneering efforts in popularizing Christ's message in Tamil, Telugu and Sanskrit. His efforts to replace Latin in Seminary by Sanskrit bore no fruit.

Roberto De Nobili was a rare missionary who tried to understand Indian ethos in an age when intolerance, superstitions and ignorance ran roost, and is often referred to as Roman Catholic brahmin.



Drawing Nearer to God (Hebrews 4:16) - 2nd Nov '14
Pastor-Showing the Way to God (Isaiah 42:7) - 09th Nov '14
God's Perspective (John 9:3) - 16th Nov '14
Enslaving Addiction (Proverbs 23:20,21) - 23rd Nov '14
Prophecy (Luke 24:27) - 30th Nov '14

Pray for

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**BIRTH OF A SONG
(Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing)**

Robert Robinson (1735-1790) was eight years old at the time of his father's death. He was a very bright, headstrong boy who became increasingly more difficult for his mother to handle. When Robert turned 14, she sent him to London for an apprenticeship with a barber. Robert proceeded to get into even more trouble, taking on a life of drinking and gambling.

At 17, Robert and some of his drinking buddies decided to attend an evangelistic meeting, with a plan to make fun of the proceedings. When George Whitfield began to preach, Robert felt as if the sermon was just for him. He did not respond to the altar call that night, but the words of the evangelist would haunt him for the next three years.

On Dec. 10, 1755, at age 20, Robert finally yielded his life to Christ, and very soon thereafter answered a call to the ministry. Three years later, as he was preparing to preach a sermon at the Calvinist Methodist Chapel in Norfolk, England, Robert wrote Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing to complement his sermon.

Robinson never got the proper education expected of a minister, but he became one nevertheless —a minister so competent that he attracted learned people to his congregation in the great university town of Cambridge, England.

Robinson wrote only two hymns, and "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" is the only one that remains popular today. But it is popular indeed, being found in practically every hymnbook. It is a hymn of praise to God for the blessings that He has bestowed on us — and a prayer that God will seal our hearts "for Thy courts above!"

The original version of the hymn uses the word "Ebenezer," a word unfamiliar to most people. It refers to a place where Samuel erected a stone memorial to honor victory over the Philistines (1 Samuel 7:12). The wording has been changed in many modern hymnals.

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ARTICLES FOR THE MONTH

Teach me Lord!! *(Mrs. Merryly Stephen)*

I get so angry sometimes
That I fail to control my heart
Though I do not let my tongue sin.

My helpless heart burdens
Not knowing -Why I'm not strong enough
To show the same feeling anymore
That too when I'm not at fault

I picture Jesus on the cross
Blessing those who nailed Him.

No way, I can compare my anger
To the agony he had sustained.
My savior, though sinless
Was punished for me.

Just to teach me
How to let go the grip of my anger.

We are called to be like HIM
And HE promises to strengthen us
To be like HIM

HE became weak so that we can be strong
HE taught,
HE teaches &
HE will teach
If we are willing to listen to HIM



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We suffer due to our ego

God has subjected us to vanity in hope of salvation. Romans 8:20-24.

We stray due to our ego. Paul teaches us to not think too highly of ourselves. Romans 12:3.

Here is an incident from the life of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore. Once, by boat, he was crossing the river Yamuna. It was night. A few fellow passengers praised Gurudev and asked him to compose something that measures up to his greatness. Delighted by the praises, Gurudev obliged.

Under candlelight, he did his best to compose a poem. However, the words would not flow and he started getting irritated. After some time, still irritated, he gave up. Not wanting to see the disappointed faces of his fellow passengers, nor wanting to have his ashamed face seen, he put off the candle.

Within a few moments of the candlelight being put off, moonlight filled the boat and the boat appeared soulful! Gurudev experienced a great sense of beauty. At once, poetry began to flow out of his heart... effortlessly! He told his fellow passengers, "Thank you for teaching me an important lesson today".

What is the lesson here? The candlelight was capable of hiding the moonlight! In the same way, petty ego hides the beauty of life.

In the computer world we're probably all aware of the initials, "WYSIWYG" (pronounced wissiwig) meaning "What You See Is What You Get."

In the real world, we could word it this way, "What you look for is what you find."

Gurudev's ego was searching for proof of Gurudev's greatness. It failed. The candlelight in this incident represents ego. The moment ego was put off, beauty emerged.

Our selfish identity is rooted in ego. Mankind is never satisfied. Ecclesiastes 1:8, 4:8, and Proverbs 27:20. Our selfish false sense of self is conditioned by our

thoughts and the influences of the reality around us, which we call the world. From birth we are conditioned with the concepts of "I", "me", "mine", and so on. We set expectations for ourselves and the people around us based on these concepts, and when our expectations fail we succumb to distress and suffering. In the midst of our thoughts, we forget to realize that we can control them.

The sensitivity of Gurudev, made him realise when he was searching for the wrong thing, even when he was surrounded by admirers, he was getting irritated. And when, he could see 'the creator's greatness', poetry flowed effortlessly.

Both the vulture and hummingbird fly over the same desert. The vulture looks for rotting flesh and finds it. The humming bird seeks a colourful desert and sings a melodious tune.

Each seeks and goes on to find what it's looking for.

Don't we do the same thing? Sometimes, we are the vulture and sometimes, we are the humming bird.

Sometimes, we make the candlelight hide the moonlight while the moonlight waits for the candlelight to be put away.

It's true in life, that what we see is what we get and what we look for is what we find. That is why 'Sapere Vedere' (Knowing what to see) is a sign of maturity and wisdom.

Live beyond the ego and surrender to Jesus Christ. Paul said in Galatians 2:20, "...it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me..." (NASB) Become one with Jesus Christ. Take on his baptism, his suffering, his death. Romans 6:1-7.

**Abandon your way for his way
and
escape the vanity
and
insanity of this world.**

John 14:6.

BIBLE QUIZ FOR THE MONTH

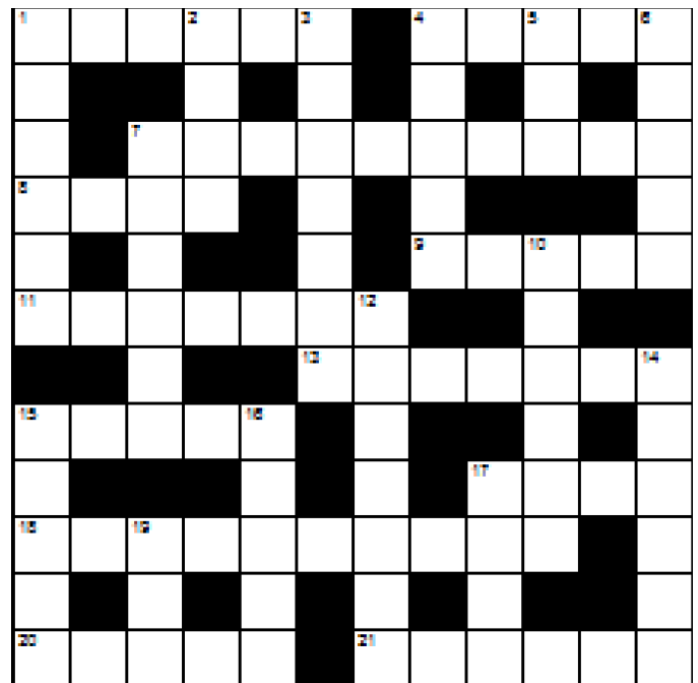
Across

- 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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