

GOD WORKS

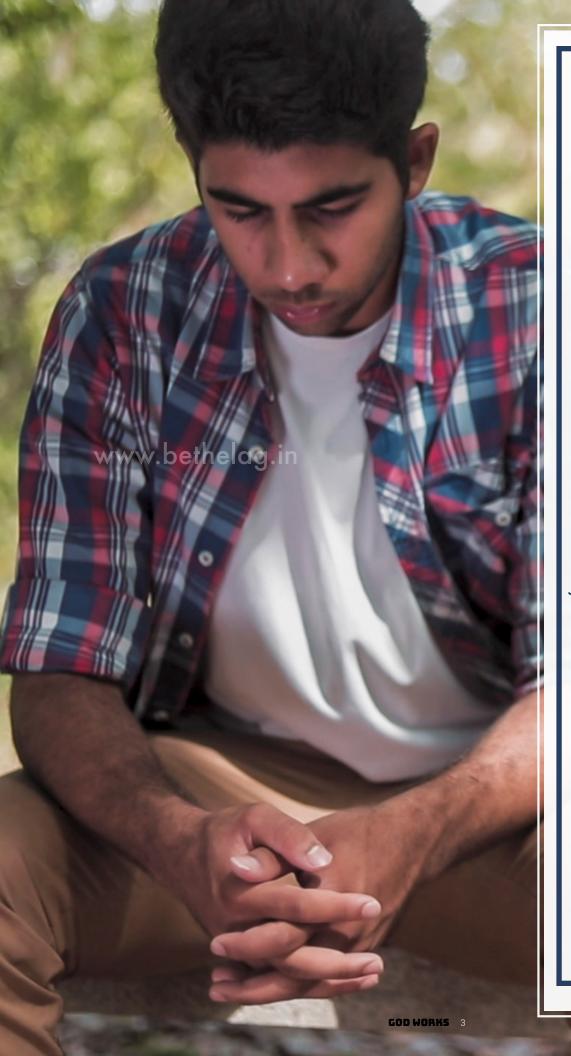
MAY 2019 - EDITION 3





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"Do not be anxious about anything. but in every situation, by prayer. and petition. with thanksgiving. presentyour requests to

God."

PHILIPPIANS 4:6

WELCOME



REV. JOHNSON V. & PASTOR CYNTHIA

re you seeking your miracle? Maybe a breakthrough or an act of restoration, a miraculous healing or just someone who will love you unconditionally?

Get set for a life changing transformation, with a simply powerful spiritual tool! **PRAYER!**

In this edition of Bethel AG's Digital Magazine, we focus on the Power of Prayer. We answer the hows, whys, whens and wheres of prayer, with answers that possess the potential to change lives.

Isn't it true that many of us have trouble praying because we don't know how to pray?

Well, even Jesus' disciples did not know how to pray, though they were around Him more than most people. That's when Jesus taught them a model prayer, which we commonly call 'The Lord's Prayer'.

Jesus knew the power of prayer! He often went to secluded places to pray and seek the Father's counsel and strength.

Prayer is critical to Christian growth. As we learn to develop a culture of prayer, God will step in and take control of our lives. We will receive blessings to treasure when our faith is beyond measure. That is the Power of Prayer!

Are you ready to unleash the Power of Prayer?



Have you been asking, but not receiving? Seeking, but not finding? Knocking on doors that just won't open?

Pastor Johnson tells us about the Power of Consistent Prayer. It can clear pathways through the sea and birth streams in the desert!

Find out why no situation can overwhelm a Prayer Warrior.



WORSHIP

The Bethel AG Band invites us aboard the HMS 'Faithful One' to experience the faithfulness of God towards those who have unwavering faith in Him.

Originally sung by Brain Doerksen, the song - Faithful One - has been refashioned with a touch of variation and a dash of passion!



anchor chain is too short to reach the ocean bed.



hen we think prayer, we think safe-Prayer is our refuge in tough times. We know when we pray, our difference-making God will step in and change our situation for the better.

Yes, you heard it right!

Dangerous prayers! Prayers that can take you far out of your comfort zone, into situations where dependence on God is the only option!

If you do, then get ready to experience the might of God like never before!

Great people in the Bible prayed dangerous prayers. A man after God's own heart, David, was not born with a heart that was different from ours. He worked at transforming his heart into one that connected with God. He prayed dangerous prayers! Though his prayer may seem quite ordinary, the power of his prayer and the grace needed to pray it will certainly change your life.

David was the crowned king of Israel when, one day, a group of people approached the palace and accused him of having wrong motives. Instead of defending himself with insincere reasoning, or flying into a rage and having them executed, David prayed,

This is a very popular excerpt from the Bible. But, have you paused to break it down and understand the heart of the writer?

In his prayer, David is pleading with God to search his heart and uncover the secrets that are buried in it.

Of course He does!



The human heart is very deceitful. It has the potential to hurt people with its lies. Most of all, it hurts us on a daily basis by covering our true character with excuses that create an illusion of purity. The truth about the heart of man was revealed by the Prophet Jeremiah when he wrote,

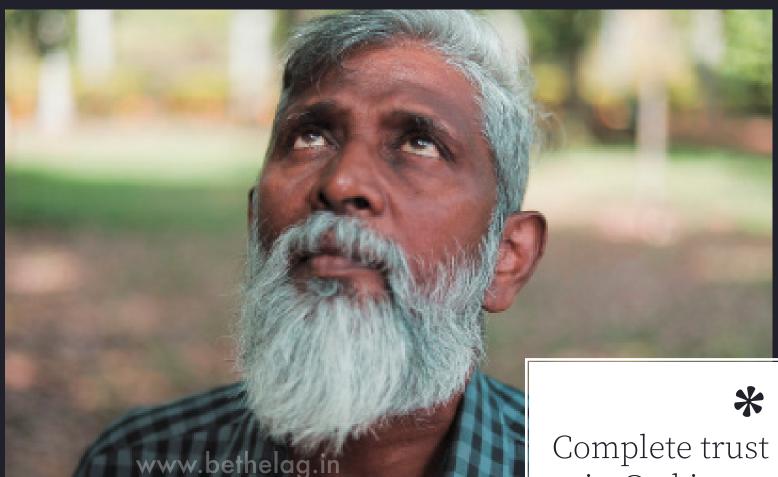
"The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? -Jeremiah 17:9

Only God can know it!

David knew that his heart was not clean. He also knew that God's intervention was required to cleanse his heart, because the heart is capable of self-deception. Only God cannot be deceived by its trickery.

That's why David tells God to search his heart and reveal the truth that was probably covered under layers of deception.

His prayer is very relevant in today's world. But, don't forget to fasten your seatbelts before you pray this prayer because it is going to take you on a rough ride. It will have you swerving to the left and right, desperately trying to ignore the hidden secrets of your heart. But, don't jump off the wagon, because God has booked a seat for you on the transformation express, parked just around the corner!



David also tells God to try him and test his anxieties.

Why is it important to know our anxieties:

It is not really important to know our anxieties per se. But, our anxieties point to areas of our lives that haven't been fully submitted to God.

It is the lack of trust in God that causes us to be anxious.

Everyone has their own anxiety. For some it is their career, for others it is their family, for still others it is their material possessions. Whatever it may be, anxiety is caused by lack of trust in God's supremacy.

Complete trust in God is not an option. It is a requisition!

After searching his heart and testing his anxieties, David tells God to see if there is any wicked way in him.

Do we really need God to point out our sin:

It isn't so hard to know our wickedness! Or is it?

Have you noticed that some things cause you to go on the defensive instantly? Every time a person talks about your mistake, you defend it with ardent passion.

Sometimes it isn't people who talk about it. It is your own conscience that points it out, but you make it seem alright by twisting the truth.

Such deception is poisonous! People who know that they are sinning have the provision to change. But sinners who deceive themselves have little hope of transformation because they make peace with their sin.

David was not one to settle for anything less than complete transformation. He wanted to present all his mistakes to God and ask for forgiveness and grace to change his ways.

Are we willing to follow the example of David?

If so, God is eagerly waiting to lead us in the way everlasting!

The Lord wants to bless us! He wants His anointing to flow through us. But, our deceptive lifestyle is stifling the flow of God's goodness.

in God is not an option.

It is a Requisition!

When we get rid of everything that is hindering God's anointing, we will experience an amazing transformation. It will lead us to where God wants us to be and motivate us to do what God wants us to do. We will be blessed beyond measure as we walk with God and accomplish His purpose in our lives.

Isn't that what we all want

Then let's dare to pray the prayer of David!

"Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting." - Psalms 139: 23-24

Testimony

Raising Diamonds out of Dust

66

"I was 10 years old when I decided to become a pilot!

As a helicopter landed on a field in the countryside where I was born, my dream of becoming a pilot arose from the dust. Literally!

I had no clue as to how I would become a pilot. But, God revealed Himself to me, held my hand and led me through the most trying situations of my life. He flew me to Victory!"

"



This is the story of Senior Captain Aruna Vedula, who overcame all odds with the help of an Almighty God, to become a highly-ranked pilot in a reputed aviation company.

Testimony

Walking out Victorious after Walking through Fire

My life is great, so much so that it has never been better!

But, it wasn't always a bed of roses. There were thorns and thistles that stopped me from being fruitful. It was only the grace and patience of God that changed my life and made me who I am today.

Though, I was born into a non-christian family, my passion for God was unstoppable. I worshipped idols with all my heart and my dedication to tradition was unmatched.

Much to my dismay, something happened when I was in the final year of my academic course. I immediately decided to quit. It was a hasty decision, but it was my decision and I had no motivation to reconsider.

That's when the founder of my school decided to visit Bangalore. I met him for a brief period and he invited me to Bethel AG.

One Sunday morning, I accompanied him to church. The ambience of the place gave me a sense of peace and reassurance. It was something I hadn't felt in a very long time.

Over the next few weeks, I decided to go back to college. Academics was always my strength and I consistently scored over 75% in all my semesters. But, this semester was different. I was shocked when I received the grades for my preliminary exams. 12, 13 and 14 out of 100 were scores I'd never seen in my life. Depressed, but not ready to give up because of the new found hope in Christ, I decided to give my finals anyway.

To my utter astonishment, I got 84%. My faith in Christ was reaffirmed. With confidence, I applied for a job. It was during this time that I heard a sermon, which was about asking the best from Jesus because He is a God in whom nothing is impossible. So, I prayed that I get the best job after graduation! Sure enough, I got the best job with the most handsome salary amongst my peers.

But, I still held on to my past tradition and worshipped idols, along with Jesus. I was serving 2 masters.

In my opinion, I was living the good life! My company paid for me to fly from city to city and travel in the most luxurious of cars. I felt indispensible!

I reached the top position in under 3 months. But, I wasn't prepared for the fall that shattered my life.

Within the next week, I lost my job and was left almost penniless. The reason for this sudden fall remained a mystery until I realised that I could not serve 2 Gods. I had to choose between the Gods of my tradition and the true living God who called me friend.

I chose Jesus!

My affiliation with the church was strengthened. I met Pastor Johnson that week and he prayed for my career.

The very next week, I received an offer letter and joined work. It wasn't as glamorous as the previous job, and doubts began to crowd my mind. As if in answer to my predicament, that Sunday, Pastor Johnson preached about how the end will be glorious even if the beginning is small.

At this time, I felt like I needed a mentor to take my next step in Christ. Pastor Krishanu was the perfect person to take me under his wing and further transform my life. He told me about the need to let go of the old and accept Christ as the only God in my life.

I listened, I obeyed and I got baptised. It was a life changing experience. One that I won't forget for as long as I live!

However, my struggle with anger did not leave me. I was such an angry person that I hadn't spoken to my brother for years, though we lived under the same roof. But, God used every situation to mend my character.

I realised that even a road accident was not by chance, when my brother came home to take care of me for few days, as I recovered from the crash. My anger toward him had disappeared. In fact, we became so close that I invited him to church. Decades of enmity gave way to the best few weeks with my brother. I'd found my prayer partner!

Though I attended church regularly and worshipped Jesus, I hadn't told my family about it.

One day, I was invited to a family ritual, wherein I was supposed to sit with my grandparents as they worshipped idols. I did not want to hurt my grandparents, but more than anything I did not want to hurt Jesus. So, I told them about my new faith, which was hard for them to accept. Later, when it was time for marriage, they were further disappointed that I was looking for a believer.

Time went by and I could not find a good match. My parents gave me four months to find a girl, failing which they would find one for me. I agreed!

I was certain that God would find a girl for me. And He did!

I met Priyanka on a matrimonial site. She seemed nice, but she wasn't baptised. Baptism was very important to me. I was adamant about marrying a baptised believer. When I told Priyanka about this, it lit a fire in her to get baptised. I may have initiated the spark, but God kindled the fire and she got baptised.

We were engaged and married in the next few months. All seemed good, until Priyanka discovered my struggle with anger. I said things that hurt her. And though I was aware of this, I could not stop myself.

Once, Priyanka fell ill from the fights that had become an everyday thing in our house. It was so bad that our parents got involved and everything seemed to fall apart. But, I knew, and she knew, that it was God's plan for us to be together!

We went for counselling to Pastor Krishanu. He had always been patient with me, but this time he did not sugar coat his advice. It was the required remedy to change my attitude. Slowly, but steadily, my anger reduced because of prayer. It has been a huge boon to our marriage!

Without God sent mentors, I would not be where I am today. It is all because of His grace and patience that my life has been transformed for the better. Thank God for picking me up when I nobody and making me everything that I ever wanted to be.

What is impossible with man is possible with God!





10X GROWTH - THE PROBLEM THAT MADE IT POSSIBLE

God promised a problem and kept His word

When problems come knocking on the door of our church, we knock them out with prayer. But, there was, is and will always be one problem that has made a home in our church. It is the **Problem of SPACE!** Praise God for Blessed Problems!



2004

In the year 2004, we purchased over 2 acres o land in Hebbal to accommodate the uncontainable growth of the church. Although the term land is quite an exaggeration - because in altruth it was a 2 acre swamp - God was at the helm of the project!

We used the Malayalam church for one service and had another service at the church in Ganganagar





2005

Hundreds of Prayer Warriors gathered to pray for the land. With over 72 land dispute cases and an elevated water table, the property seemed unfeasible. But, God stepped in and changed things in our favour. He gave us victory in every case. Not one penny was paid in bribe! Prayerfully, we levelled the land and begar construction of the wall behind the pulpit. To our dismay, officials from the BDA barged into our land and brought the wall down.





2006

cops were stationed on the premises to ensure that construction was at a standstill.

But, the courage and enthusiasm of our members could not be quenched. When the labourers stepped down, our own church members rose to the occasion and began construction. They laid bricks, climbed the structure to lay the roof and ensured that the church would take shape!

The swamp was cleared and construction of a 100 X 100 structure was well underway



2007

2007 was a landmark year for the church, as Bethel AG turned 10! But, there was little time to celebrate, as the church was drawn into tens of court cases to prove ownership of the land. With the might of God we won every case, without compromising on our 'no bribe' principle.

It was a sure sign that faith in God and dedication in working towards His plan creates a divinely unbeatable synergy.

The ill-wishers were silenced and the doubters were confounded! In the midst of the silence, the voice of God was leading the church to transform the city of Bangalore!











Soon, the church was ready for its first service. Pastor Johnson inaugurated the church and realized God's promise to provide a sanctuary for many. We had 2 services in the morning and 1 service in the evening.

The annexure halls for the Kids' Church were also built during this time, with a desire to disciple kids from a tender age.

Little did we know that 15 years down the lane, our church – with the added balcony and overflow sections - would once again be too small for its ever growing congregation.







2010

The blessed **Problem of SPA-CE** made its presence felt in a big way!

There was a pressing need to increase the seating capacity of the church. It led to the construction of a 300-seater balcony!

And we thought that would suffice for a while. But, God had other plans. People started flooding in from all across the country!

Soon, we started another service in the morning to accommodate more people. But, even that wasn't enough. As we wondered how we could accommodate such rapid growth, God changed the culture of the church.

Standing in God's presence became an unintentional culture and no one was displeased!

The blessed **Problem of SPA-CE** was turning problems into miracles!

2011

Did you know that till 2010 we did not have a pathway to enter church?

Yes, our land was so far away from the main road that, in 2011, we had to purchase the pathway that leads into church.

God also blessed us with Air Conditioners and false roofing.

2012

The **Problem of SPACE** was not one dimensional! When the old office did not have enough space for the growing workforce, it was time to build a new office for our dear Pastors. And so, the present day office was constructed!

2013

Although the services in the morning were jam-packed, very few people attended the evening service. As Pastor Johnson prayed and asked God if it was His plan to continue the evening service, numbers began to grow! There was more than enough reason to continue the service. Soon, the evening service was a constant in Bethel AG's Sunday schedule.

On 31st December, 2013, a massive New Year's Eve crowd flocked into Bethel AG! Having already conducted outdoor services for New Year's Eve, the event itself wasn't one of a kind. But, the unprecedented crowd prompted us to reset our calendar to accommodate the outdoor New Year's Eve service. And now, it is a highly prominent event in our church's calendar.

Last year, we witnessed numbers in excess of 12,000! From 000 to 12,000, God added value to the zeroes because the vision of the church remained constant - To find the lost and disciple the found!





























2014

The need for water led us to tap into the abundance of ground water. We sunk a borewell to empower self-sustenance.

2015

With continuous growth in all 4 services, an LED screen was put up on stage to enable undisrupted engagement of attention. We also upgraded our sound system, to what was then, the best in the market!

2016

In an effort to further increase seating capacity, the overflow section was added to the church. There was a progressive increment in the requirement to hire chairs for people to be seated during the sermon.

We innovately transformed shipping containers into welcome halls to ensure that our new comers feel at home.

2017

The overflow structure was built to increase seating and provide shade for people who occupied those seats.

Yes, the Blessed **Problem of SPACE** tagged along, even as Bethel AG turned 20!

YEAR OF

GREAT TRIUMPH







The church regularly hits the 5 figure mark on a Sunday-ly basis. Each service is packed to the rafters!
As the Blessed **Problem of SPACE** smiles upon us, we smile back and

As the Blessed **Problem of SPACE** smiles upon us, we smile back and ask "Where next?"



POSTURES OF PRAYER

Why do we lift our hands, kneel or lay down while praying?

Pastor Dani enlightens us on different prayer positions from the Bible and tells us the significance of each posture.

The season to UP your prayer life is here!



You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.

PSALM 32:7-8





ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS

I am struggling with the discipline of prayer. How do I make it a daily practice?

We're glad to tell you that you aren't alone. Initially, everyone struggles with the discipline of prayer. It is a powerful spiritual weapon in the warfare against satan. And, satan fully knows the power of prayer! He knows that it has the potential to bury the flesh and breathe life into our spirit. It is for this very reason that he tries his best to ensure that we're too tired or too busy to pray.

But, the truth is drowned in irony!

We feel overwhelmed with work and the things of this world, only when we do not pray. Prayer is the gateway to a stress-free life. When we strengthen our relationship with God, He takes control of every situation. There may be times when things don't go as planned. But, in prayer we can rest assured that God has a better plan for us!

We did not meet anyone on Earth and have a great relationship with them instantly. We invested our time in them. It started off with a couple of minutes, but eventually increased to such an extent that the relationship became almost inseparable.



And before we know it, we would have forged an eternal friendship with God, the Almighty King, who called us friend even before we knew Him.

It is the same with God! We start off by spending few minutes in prayer. As we get to know the heart of God, prayer will become the most blessed time in our everyday routine. We will spend more time in prayer because the relationship with our creator will grow stronger with every passing prayer. And before we know it, we would have forged an eternal friendship with God, the Almighty King, who called us friend even before we knew Him.

Remember the first month at work? It wasn't easy, but we invested our effort to make it work. In return, we were compensated. The salary we received is pittance in comparison to what God has in store for people who will invest their time and effort to forge an eternal relationship with Him.

We serve a great and mighty God. In Him, nothing is impossible! And through prayer we can open the treasure chest of heaven - His power, His blessings and a relationship that will grow stronger with every passing day.

We can put our faith in the things of this world, or in the God who created everything in this world. Both require investment of time and effort. The things of this world may give us some fruit. But, God will give us an orchard filled with the most essential fruits of the spirit - love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. These are fruits that will make us worthy of God's blessing.

Where will you invest your time and effort?

I've never prayed before. How do I get started?

Although prayer should come naturally to a child of God, it doesn't. Initially, even Jesus' disciples did not know how to pray. But, over time, they build an inseparable relationship with God that transformed them into Prayer Warriors

However, there is no easy way to build a relationship with Him. It takes dedication and desire to experience the power of prayer. It is an investment that yields plentiful returns, transforms lives over time and is in line with our best interests.

The easiest way to initiate a healthy prayer life is to follow the acronym - **ACTS**.

Firstly, it tells us that we need to ACT. There is no short cut to prayer. We need to sacrifice time out of our busy schedule to get down on our knees and pray!

ACTS also gives us a model on which we can base our prayers. The acronym - ACTS - expands into:

Adoration: We must always begin our prayer by praising, worshipping and giving glory to God. He is the ruler of Heaven and the creator of Earth, who gives us the privilege of calling Him friend. Once we understand how blessed we are to have an almighty friend in God, adoration will become second nature to us.

Confession: Every man has sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Jesus died on the cross to give us salvation through the forgiveness of sins. He bore our sins, so we can receive forgiveness from the Father without being subject to the law of Moses. Therefore, confessing our sins to God on a daily basis and seeking God's cleansing is a vital part of prayer.



Thanksgiving: Many a time, we've heard about the 'Attitude of Gratitude'. It not only unlocks God's treasure chest of blessings, but gives us complete confidence in God's control over every situation. When we thank God for something that has gone right, we express gratitude with a joyful heart. But, there are times when things go wrong. In such junctures of life, it can be extremely hard to thank God. But, we must learn to thank God for closing some doors, because in time we'll realise that God was tearing down walls for us to cross over.





Supplication:
Nothing is impossible
with our God. He
is great beyond
measure and only
desires the best for
His children. Hold
on to this promise
when you pray for
your needs. Ask the
best of Him, because
He is the best!





UPCOMING EVENTS

5TH MAY, 2ND JUN & 7TH JUL (SUNDAY) Holy Communion Sunday

8TH - 10TH MAY (WED - FRI) Teens Workshop

12TH MAY, 26TH MAY, 9TH JUN, 23RD JUN (SUNDAY) Baptism Class & Service - 12 Noon / 2 PM

> 25TH MAY (SATURDAY) Membership class - 5 PM

31ST MAY (FRIDAY) **Midnight Prayer - 10:30 PM**





Created to Lead

Teens' Church is back with a bang!
The recent Young Leadership Summit gathered some of the most motivated youth in Bangalore under one roof, and laid emphasis on the need for Christian Principles in Leadership.
Here's a quick recap of YLS

Leaders are not born. They are moulded in the Church!

Kids Church

Born Victorious!

The kids of Bethel AG had the time of their lives at VBS – 2019. Empowered to be Victorious in Jesus, the event was a smashing success!

Here are some highlights for you to enjoy.



"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us."

1 JOHN 5:14



HAPPENINGS AT CHURCH

NEW BORNS

WE REJOICE WHEN GOD BLESSES FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE PARENTS!



Sam Steve & Mary



Marian Savio & Mary Majella



Arun Thomas & Anjalin

JUST MARRIED

AND THE LORD SAID IT IS GOOD!

LET'S CELEBRATE THE JOYOUS UNION OF THESE BLESSED COUPLES IN THE PAST TWO MONTHS



Aaron & Uma



Silvanus & Shruthi

HOUSE WARMINGS

GOD IS THE FOUNDER AND ARCHITECT OF THIS BUILDING



Anthony & Jacintha



Liju & Asha Mathew Liju



Suma Sampath & Family

FUNERALS

PROMOTED TO GLORY

WENT TO BE WITH THE LORD IN THE PAST TWO MONTHS



Ahilya Jayakaran



Peter Lobo



Susairaj

PRAY

FOR

INDIA

Is there a Nehemiah in India?

God never imposes His plan on us. He gives us the freedom to choose as we desire, even if it takes us far from His plan for our life.

But, could you choose the place of your birth?

At birth, God placed us in the city of His choosing, to give us the right start to life. Maybe in our eyes it wasn't perfect, but in His plan, there was no better city to welcome us into the world.

Even Joseph and Mary had to journey on foot before they reached the place where Jesus was destined to be born. The Star of Heaven was to be born in Bethlehem, even if it was in a manger.

Yes, our place of birth has immense significance in God's plan. Daniel and Joseph were born in Israel, but were carried away as slaves to different countries. Though they were very young when they reached their adopted homeland, their hearts always beat for Israel!

Nehemiah was also carried off during one such plunder. He worked as a cupbearer to the king of a foreign land. But, his undying passion for Israel did not go unnoticed.

When Nehemiah heard that the walls of Jerusalem had been torn down, he was deeply saddened. It broke his spirit and scorched his heart to know that his city of birth had been laid in ruins. His passion caught the eye of the Almighty and his sadness was of concern to the king.

After an enquiry into the reason for his sadness, the king sent him to Jerusalem, to rebuild the city. He also sent a small army to escort Nehemiah, with materials required for the city's restoration. With God's favour he rebuilt the city in 52 days! Israel was restored because of the blazing passion of one man!

Born in India, boatloads of people have found a "better" country to make a life. Our own people may have found a "better" life and forgotten the call of God for a nation that needs Jesus!

We take many steps in life, not fully knowing if we are walking in the plan of God. But, we can be certain that our birth in India was God's plan.

Is our heart beating for the nation that God chose to welcome us into this world?

God is looking for a Nehemiah to change India!

P.S. Praise God for the wonderful people whose hearts beat for India, though they were born in a foreign land. India needs the prayers of such Prayer Warriors. God bless you!



Fear not,
for I am with you;
be not dismayed,
for I am your God;
I will strengthen you,
I will help you,
I will uphold you
with my righteous right hand.

ISAIAH 41:10



