



DECEMBER 2024

Vol. 23, No. 3

SATHTHIYA VAARTHAI

IBT Founder (Late) Rev. Prof. S. Panneer Selvam

WORD OF TRUTH

PUBLICATION OF INDIAN BIBLE TRANSLATORS

Annual Subscription

Rs. 100/-

THE KING'S BIRTH



THE KING'S BIRTH

The birth of King Jesus has changed the entire history of the world. Still, he rules the world and the people of the world. His birth has made a great impact on the people of the world without any discrimination of caste, creed and religion. Now the king has come as new born Baby.

I. The King Jesus' Birth Drew Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem (Lk. 2:1 – 7)

The Roman emperor Augustus Caesar was ruling, but God was in charge; for he used Caesar's edict to move Mary and Joseph 80 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem to fulfil His word. Rome took a census every fourteen years for both military and tax purposes, and each Jewish male had to return to the city of his father to record his name, occupation, family and properties.

When Mary said, "Be it unto me according to thy word" (Lk 1:38), it meant from there on her life would be a part of the fulfilment of divine prophecy. God had promised that the Saviour would be a human, not an angel (Gen. 3:15, Heb. 2:16) and a Jew, not a Gentile (Gen. 12:1 – 3). He would be a tribe of Judah (Gen. 49:10) and the family of David (2 Sam. 7:1 – 17), born of a virgin (Isa. 7:14) in Bethlehem, the city of David (Micah 5:2).

"Bethlehem" means "House of bread", the ideal birth place for the Bread of life (John 6:35). Its rich historic heritage included the death of Rachel and the birth of Benjamin (Gen. 35:16 – 20; Matt. 2:16 – 18), the marriage of

Ruth and the exploits of David. It is worth nothing that the name Benjamin means "Son of my right hand" and the name David means "Beloved". Both of these names apply to our Lord; for He is the Beloved Son (Lk 3:22) at God's right hand (Psalm 110:1).

II. The King Jesus' Birth Drew the Angels from Heaven (Lk. 2:8 – 14)

How amazed the angels must have been when they saw the creator born as a creature, the word coming as a speechless baby. The first announcement of Messiah's birth was given by an angel to some shepherds. By visiting the shepherds, the angel revealed the grace of God forward mankind shepherds were really outcasts in Israel. Their work not only made them ceremonially unclean, but it kept them away from the temple for weeks at a time. So that they could not be made clean.

Shepherds are not easily fooled. They are practical men of the world who have little to do with fantasy. God selected hard working shepherds to be the first witnesses that His Son had come into this world. First, an Angel appeared (Gabriel) and gave the glad announcement and then a choir of Angels joined him and gave an anthem of praise. For the first time in centuries, the glory of God returned to earth.

"**Fear not**" is one of the key themes of CHRISTMAS STORY (Luke 1:13; 30, 74 and see Matt. 1:20).

The Angels praised God at creation (Job 38:7) and now they praised Him at the beginning of the new creation. The whole purpose of the plan of Salvation is “Glory to God” (See Eph. 1:6, 12, 14). God's glory dwelt in the tabernacle (Exodus 40:34) and the temple (2 Chron. 7:1 – 3), but had departed because of the nation's sin (1 Sam. 4:21, Ezek. 8:4, 9:3, 10:4, 18; 11:22, 23). Now, God's Glory returning to earth in the person of His Son (John 1:14). The lowly manger was a holy of holies because King Jesus was there.

III. The King Jesus' Birth Drew the Shepherds from the Field (Lk. 2:15 – 20)

The phrase, “Even unto Bethlehem,” suggests that these men were located some distance away, but they were willing to make the trip in order to see the New born Messiah. Certainly, they arranged for others to care for their flocks while they hastened to Bethlehem. It may be the “FIRST CHRISTMAS RUSH,” but it was certainly different from the CHRISTMAS RUSHES we see today.

The shepherds knew what to look for: A NEW BORN BABY, wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. And they found Him! They worshipped Him and marvelled at God's grace and goodness and the miracle He had wrought for them. These shepherds are good examples for us to imitate today. They received by faith the message God sent them and they responded with immediate obedience. After finding the Baby, they reported the good news to others, “Glorifying and praising God” they took the place of the angels (Lk. 2:13, 14). Then they humbly return to their duties.

For some reason, shepherds were not permitted to testify in court, but God used some humble shepherds to be the FIRST human witness that prophecy had been fulfilled, and the Messiah had been born. The angels have never experienced the grace of God, so they can't bear witness as we can. Telling others about the saviour is a solemn obligation as well as a great obligation and great privilege, and we who are believers must be faithful.

And we can see

The Human Heredity of the King (Jesus)

The Divine Heredity of the King (Jesus)

The Homage of the King (Jesus)

The Hostility against the King (Jesus)

The Humility of the King (Jesus)

A. The Human Heredity of the King (Jesus) (Matthew. 1:1 – 17)

Genealogies were very important to the Jews; for without them, they could not prove their tribal memberships of their rights to inheritances. Anyone claiming to be the “Son of David” had to be able to prove it. It is generally concluded that Matthew gave our Lord Jesus family tree through His foster father, Joseph, while Luke gave Mary's lineage (Luke. 3:23). This list of names is a vital part of the gospel record. It shows King Jesus is a part of history that all of Jewish history prepared the way for His birth. God in His providence ruled and over ruled to accomplish His great purpose in bringing His Son into the world. This genealogy also illustrates God's wonderful grace. There were many Jewish men who could trace their family back to King David. It would take more than human pedigree to make Jesus Christ “the

Son of David” and heir to David's throne. This is why the divine heredity was so important.

B. The Divine Heredity of the King (Jesus)(Matthew. 1:18 – 25)

It is quite clear that Jesus Christ's birth was different from that of any other Jewish boy named in the genealogy (Matt. 1:16 and 18). Matthew pointed out that Joseph did not “Beget” Jesus Christ. Rather Joseph was the “husband of Mary; of whom was born Jesus; who is called Christ.” Jesus was born of an earthly mother without the need of an earthly father. This is known as the doctrine of the virgin birth.

Every child born into the world is totally a new creature. But Jesus Christ, being eternal God (John 1:1, 14), He existed before Mary and Joseph or any of His earthly ancestors. If Jesus Christ were conceived and born just like any other baby, then he could not be God. It was necessary for Him to enter this world through an earthly mother, but not to be begotten by an earthly father. By a miracle of the Holy Spirit, Jesus was conceived in womb of Mary, a Virgin (Luke 1:26 – 38). Both Mary and Joseph belonged to the house of David. The Old Testament prophecies indicated that the Messiah would be born of woman (Gen. 3:15) of the seed of Abraham (22:18), through the tribe of Judah (49:10) and of the family of David (2 Sam. 7:12 – 13). It is worth noting that Jesus Christ is the only Jew alive who can actually prove his claims to the throne of David. All of the other records were destroyed when the Romans took Jerusalem in A.D. 70.

Jesus is human name. Christ is His official title; and Immanuel describes who He is – “God

with us.” Jesus Christ is God! We find this name. “Immanuel” in Isaiah 7:14 and 8:8.

The King, then, was a Jewish male who was also the divine Son of God. However, did anybody acknowledge His kingship? Yes, the wise men from the East came and worshipped Him.

C. The Homage to the King (Matthew. 2:1 – 12)

The word “WISE MEN” (magi) translated refers to a group of scholars who studied the stars. God gave them a special sign; a miraculous star that announced the birth of the King. This star led them to Jerusalem where God's word had told them that the King would be born in Bethlehem. They went to Bethlehem, and there they worshipped child. We do not know how many wise men there were. From the three gifts listed in Matthew 2:11, some people have assumed there were three Kings from the Orient, though this is not certain. But when their caravan arrived in Jerusalem, there were enough of them to trouble the whole city.

The wise men were seeking the King; but Herod was afraid of the King (Jesus) and wanted to destroy him. This was Herod the great, called King by the senate because of the influence of Mark Antony. Herod was a cruel and crafty man who permitted no one, not even his own family to interfere with his rule or prevent the satisfying of his evil desires. A ruthless murderer, he had his own wife and two brothers slain because he suspected them of treason. He was married at least nine times in order to fulfil his lusts and strengthen his political ties.

It is no surprise that Herod tried to kill Jesus; for Herod alone wanted to bear the title “King of the Jews.” The wise men were seeking the King; Herod was opposing the King; and Jewish priests were ignoring the king. As the wise men started toward Bethlehem, they saw the star again, and it led them to the house where Jesus was. By now, Joseph had moved Mary and the Baby from the temporary dwelling where the Lord Jesus had been born (Luke. 2:7).

D. The Hostility against the King (Jesus) **Matthew 2:13 – 18**

Herod pretended that he wanted to worship the new born King (Matt. 2:8), but in reality, he wanted to destroy Him. God warned Joseph to take the Child and Mary and flee to Egypt. Egypt was close. There was also another prophecy to fulfil, Hosea 11:1 - "I called my son out of Egypt."

Herod's anger was evidence of his pride; he could not permit anyone to get the best of him. This led him to kill the boy babies two years of age and under who were still in Bethlehem. Here, we can see the theme HOSTILITY which Matthew focused throughout his book. Satan is a liar and a murderer (John 8:44) as was King Herod. He lied to the wise men, and he murdered the babies. Jacob saw Bethlehem as a place of death, but the birth of Jesus made it a place of life. Because of His coming there would be spiritual deliverance for Israel and in the future, the establishment of David's throne and Kingdom.

Very few people today think of Bethlehem as a burial place, they think of it as the birth

place of Jesus Christ and because He died for us and rose again, we have a bright future for us.

E. The Humility of the King (Jesus) **(Matthew. 2:19 – 23)**

Herod died in 4 B. C, which means that Jesus was born some time between 6 and 5 B.C; it is impossible not to notice the parallel Matthew 2:20 and Exodus 4:19 the call of Moses. As God's son, Jesus was in Egypt and was called out to go to Israel. Moses was outside Egypt, hiding for his life, and he was called to return Egypt. **But in both cases, God's programme of Redemption involved.** If it took courage for Joseph and his family to leave Egypt, and took courage for Moses to return to Egypt.

Certainly, Joseph and Mary prayed, waited and sought God's will, common sense told them to be careful; faith told them to wait. In due time, God spoke to Joseph in a dream; and he took his wife and her son to Nazareth, which had been their home earlier (Matthew. 2:19 – 20).

Our Lord and King Jesus grew up in Nazareth and was identified with that city. In fact, His enemies thought He had been born there; for they said that He come from galilee (John 7:50 – 52). Had they investigated the temple records, they would have discovered that He had been born in Bethlehem.

Who ever heard of a KING JESUS being born in a humble village and growing up in a despised city? The Humility of the KING JESUS is certainly something to admire and imitate(Phil 2:1 -13).

Here is a Christmas Prayer

*Today Heaven and earth have become one,
Because Christ was born;
Because today God came down to Earth;
And Mankind rose upto Heaven;
Today, what is by nature invisible
Has been seen in the flesh for man's sake.
So, let us bring Him praise,*

Let us also cry.

*Glory to God in the Heavens and peace on Earth,
Because your arrival bestowed Him to us
You, our Redeemer,
Honour to You!*

Amen.

- Rev. John Rajah

EDITORIAL

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

In the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, we extend our Christmas greetings to all of you on behalf of the *Saththiya Vaarthai* magazine.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Our Lord Jesus Christ took on human form and was born into this world to redeem humanity living in sin. We celebrate His birthday as Christmas. We rejoice with our families, wearing new clothes, sharing cakes, gifts, and food. However, when celebrating someone's birthday, it is only fitting to offer gifts to them. When Jesus was born, wise men brought Him gold, frankincense, and myrrh. What will we offer to the Lord in this Christmas?

Express Christ's love by helping relatives, friends, poor families in your neighbourhood, beggars, orphanages, and old-age homes as much as possible. Jesus said that whatever we do for the least among us, we do it for Him.

The wise men's gift of gold was precious and valuable, often given only to those closest to us. If you are blessed with financial stability, give glory of the Lord with your time and wealth. Use your precious talents for the Lord's work.

Secondly, frankincense was given as a symbol of worship. The Lord said, "I have created this people for Myself; they will proclaim My praise." May we glorify God in our worship!

Thirdly, myrrh was given as a symbol of purification. Queen Esther was purified with myrrh for six months before being allowed to meet the king. In the New Testament, our bodies are temples where God resides. Through the blood of Jesus Christ, our sins are purified, and our bodies must be offered as a pleasing sacrifice to God. This Christmas, let us offer ourselves as a gift to the Lord, who was born in this world as the sacrifice that takes away our sins.

On October 2, the annual family gathering of IBT was held at the Erode Brough Church Memorial Hall. Pastor. Solomon Bruslee gave God's message on October 5, IBT's promotional meeting was held at Vision Church of God in Podanur, Coimbatore. Bro. E.D. Raja

Kumar shared God's message, and IBT treasurer Mr. M. John William explained IBT's ministry. On October 20, at the "All Saints Church" in Madurai, Bro. E.D. Raja Kumar shared the message during the second worship service, while IBT Secretary Mr. Varamaniraj explained the IBT's ministry in both services. IBT extends heartfelt thanks to the Pastors, elders, and believers who participated in these services.

On October 16, IBT's promotional staff of Tamil Nadu and Kerala and IBT representatives Mr. John Sekar and Mrs. Navamani Sekar and

visited the IBT mission fields in Odisha, and returned to Tamil Nadu on the 21st. Let us thank the Lord for protecting them in their journey.

We pray that this Christmas brings joy and peace to all people, and that the love of Jesus Christ may dwell among people worldwide and bless each one. We convey our Christmas greetings to IBT supporters, Saththiya Vaarthai magazine readers, and prayer partners.

In the Lord's service,
Your brother,
Mr. K. Jai Singh

WORLD NEWS

- ❖ The death toll in the Israeli attacks in the Gaza region has risen to 42,289.
- ❖ The 2024 Nobel Prize in Economics has been awarded to American professors Simon Johnson, James A. Robinson, and Daron Acemoglu, with a prize amount of approximately ₹8.91 crore to be equally shared, as announced by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.
- ❖ The 2024 Nobel Prize in Chemistry has been awarded to David Packer, Demis Hassabis, and John Jumper, along with a cash prize of ₹8.91 crore. Half of the prize money will go to David Packer, while the remaining half will be shared between Hassabis and Jumper.
- ❖ Industrialist Ratan Tata (86), who expanded the Tata Group worldwide and brought pride to the nation, passed away on October 9, 2024, in a Mumbai hospital. He was honoured with the Padma Bhushan in 2000 and the Padma Vibhushan in 2008 by the Indian government.
- ❖ The 2024 Nobel Prize in Literature has been awarded to South Korean female writer Han Kang, in recognition of her poetic prose that reveals the trauma, violence, suffering, and vulnerability of human life. Along with the award, a cash prize of ₹8.91 crore will be granted.
- ❖ On October 16, 2020, Omar Abdullah, the Deputy Leader of the National Conference Party, was sworn in as the first Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory. Alongside him, Surinder Chowdhury was appointed Deputy Chief Minister, along with four ministers.

FIELD NEWS

Missionary/Translator : Bro. Ruben Andaru

Language : Desia

Mission Field : Attigan (Odisha)

Greetings in the precious name of Jesus Christ! By the abundant grace of the Lord, I travelled to the villages of Jebakuda, Junabani, Matpath, Ukkiabali, Suragan, Thangariguda, Dhanuwa, and Metkuda to share the gospel, distribute tracts, and pray. While sharing the gospel, the following individuals listened with great interest: Bro. Surendra, Sanu, Kumar, Bumo, Urdav, Laxman, Sisters Saras, Monisha, Gori Mani, Lalitha, and Bibhashini. Please pray that their desire to know the Lord remains strong and that they grow in Him.

In addition, every Sunday, worship is conducted at the Attigan mission field, along with fasting prayers and cottage prayer meetings. Bro. Surendra, Mangraj, Deshraj, Bhanumathi, and Septi, who were unwell, received healing as a result of prayer. All glory to the Lord!

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Promotional Staff: Bro. K. Sundar

Mission Field: Chennai (Tamil Nadu)

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

Last month, the Lord blessed my work in development and my family. For the purpose of promotional work, I visited areas such as Lakshmipuram, Kolathur, Surapet, Vetri Nagar, Thanikachalam Nagar, Red Hills, Ambattur, Ayanambakkam, Mogappair, Anna Nagar, Shanthi Colony, Valasaravakkam, Virugambakkam, Chinmaya Nagar, K.K. Nagar, M.G.R. Nagar, Periyar Pathai, Ashok Nagar,

Kodambakkam, Adambakkam, Madipakkam, Keelkattalai, Nanmangalam, Saidapet, Adyar, Tambaram, Keelpakam, Gandhi Nagar, Vadakkarai, Navalur, Mudichur, and a few other places to meet IBT partners and supporters, collect offerings, and pray for them.

The Lord enabled us to pray for the IBT ministry and meditate on Scripture during a prayer meeting held at Valasaravakkam in Chennai. I also had the opportunity to participate in prayer meetings at Keelkattalai and Gandhi Nagar, where we prayed for the IBT ministry.

I met Mr. Johnlin for the first time and shared about the IBT ministry. He agreed to start contributing to the IBT ministry from next month.

Please keep the following in your prayers: that Mr. Samuel Suresh may be blessed with a child, Mr. Komal be healed from intestinal cancer, Mrs. Julie Rajan may have a safe delivery; also pray for my promotional work expansion, and blessings upon my family.

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Missionary / Translator: Bro. Sudhir Kumar

Language: Bhojpuri

Mission Field: Belthra Road
(Uttar Pradesh)

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ!

In the current situation, there are challenges in fulfilling ministry work in various ways. Therefore, your prayers are very essential. Last month, I completed the checking work in translation for the Old Testament Book of Job from chapter 6:1 to chapter 38:41. My favourite verses in the Book of Job are 2:9, 10, and 12.

For missionary work, I visited the village of Thuka to share the gospel and pray. A prayer meeting was held at the home of Bro. Brijesh Kumar. Worship services are continuing amidst some challenges in the Bhojpuri congregation at Belthra Road. Please keep my translation work and my family in your prayers.

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Promotional Staff: Bro. Selvaraj
Mission Field: Tirunelveli & Madurai
(Tamil Nadu)

Glory to the Lord!

By the Lord's abundant grace, I carried out my development work in Madurai and Tirunelveli last month. In Madurai, I visited areas including Pasumalai, Alagappan Nagar, LIC Colony, Bose Colony, Thiruppalai, Koripalayam, K.K. Nagar, Anaiyur, New Jail Road, Melaponnag, Jonespuram, Thiruppavai, Bank Colony, Aathikulam, and South Street K.K. Nagar. In Tirunelveli, I visited locations such as Keelanatham Road, Pettai, Suvikadu, Xavier Colony, Maharaj Nagar, Melaratha Veethi, Thisayanvilai, Madathachanpadu, Shanthi Nagar, Bharathi Nagar, and Tirunelveli Town.

I have requested to hold IBT promotional meetings with all church pastors in Tirunelveli. Please pray for opportunities in many churches to expand IBT's ministry, for my development work, and for my family.

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Translator : Bro. Hanumanth

Language : Lambani

Mission Field : Ranebennur (Karnataka)

Glory to the Lord!

Last month, I completed the translation of the Children's Bible. Additionally, I received the printout of the New Testament for checking from the IBT office, reviewed it, and sent it back after checking.

For missionary work, I visited the villages of Guskara, Halkeri, Devanagari, Mahot, Ittak, and Metleri, where I shared the gospel and prayed. Please pray for my translation work and my family.

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Translator / Missionary:

Bro. Sunil Kumar Chapadi

Language: Gadaba

Mission Field: Gellaguda (Odisha)

Praise be to God!

In translation work last month, I completed the keying of 1 Chronicles from chapter 6:1 to chapter 21:12 in the Old Testament using Paratext software. For missionary work, I visited the villages of Sanakuda, Thuthari, Panamalibud, and Pangaibud, where I met with Bro. Sathana, Pabitra Saunda, and Govinda. I gave them the Gospel of Mark in the Gadaba language, shared about the translation work, and also shared the gospel with them, praying for them as well. Please keep my translation work and my family in your prayers.

WISDOM

- And Solomon's **wisdom** excelled the **wisdom** of all... (1Kings 4:30)
- ...Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is **wisdom**; and to depart from evil is understanding.(Job 28:28)
- In the lips of him that hath understanding **wisdom** is found: but a rod is for the back of him that is void of understanding (Prov. 10:13).
- It is as sport to a fool to do mischief: but a man of understanding hath **wisdom** (Prov. 10:23).
- When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is **wisdom**. (Prov. 11:2)
- Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is **wisdom**. (Prov. 13:10)
- The **wisdom** of the prudent is to understand his way: but the folly of fools is deceit. (Prov. 14:8)
- **Wisdom** resteth in the heart of him that hath understanding: but that which is in the midst of fools is made known. (Prov. 14:33)
- **Wisdom** is before him that hath understanding; but the eyes of a fool are in the ends of the earth. (Prov. 17:24)
- **Wisdom** is too high for a fool: he openeth not his mouth in the gate. (Prov. 24:7)

- Compiled by Miss. Y Nathiya

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The following English books written by IBT Founder President Rev. Prof. S. Panneer Selvam are available in our IBT Center, Coimbatore.

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Those who need the above books may kindly contact our office **Mobile No. 90470 57414**

NEED

IBT requires one laptop to be provided to a translator. We need Rs. 45,000/- to meet expense of the laptop. Please pray to get sponsors to contribute towards this amount. - Treasurer, IBT

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS!



The office Bearers of Indian Bible Translators, all the Translators, Missionaries, Promotional Staff and Office Staff of IBT, wish all our Supporters, Sponsors, Prayer Partners and readers of Saththiya Vaarthai, A Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year 2025.

- Indian Bible Translators

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR MISSIONARIES AND FOR THE CHILDREN AT OUR BAPANPALLI CHILDREN'S HOME



We are in need of Rs. 5 lakhs to be given as Christmas gift for our missionaries as well as to our children at our Bapanpalli Children Home. Our Promotional Staff and our Representatives will approach you for this purpose with printed covers and appeal. If you have not received such covers, you may kindly send your contribution to the Office of the IBT directly by M.O./ Cheque / DD/ or ECS into our bank account. Thank you for your co-operation and contribution. God bless you and your family.

Those who are desirous of supporting our varied ministries are requested to send their offerings to the following banks through ECS or scanning the QR Code through your phone.

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PRAY AND PRAISE!

- ❖ Praise the Lord for the IBT 2025 calendars being printed as planned and sent to representatives and promotional staff at the end of last month. Pray that the calendars reach the representatives and promotional staff without delay and that they may be distributed soon to IBT sponsors and supporters as well.
- ❖ Praise to the Lord for providing a safe journey for the promotional staff to visit the Odisha mission fields. Pray that through this journey, the promotional staff and promotional workers gain enthusiasm and a sense of responsibility in their respective roles, dedicating themselves fully to their work. May they also be able to share their experiences with IBT sponsors and partners
- ❖ Praise the Lord for sustaining IBT ministries and employees through the support of IBT sponsors and partners so far. Pray that God blesses the sponsors who gave Christmas gifts this year to IBT workers and the children at Bapanpalli, and may He bless the families involved in giving.
- ❖ Pray that this Christmas brings the light of Christ to many in our nation who do not yet know Him, and that numerous families will come to know and accept Jesus Christ through this season.

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Editor & Published by **Mr. K. JAISINGH**
On behalf of **WORD PUBLISHERS TRUST**

14, Ashok Layout,
Civil Aerodrome Road,
Coimbatore - 641 014.

Printed by **Mr. C.K. VENKATESH**
Chandra Prabha Press
113-118, V.H. Road, CBE-1.

SATHTHIYA VAARTHAI - DECEMBER 2024

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Announcement for the Readers

If you are waiting to renew your subscription to the Saththiya Vaarthai magazine, we kindly request you to send Rs.100 /-through money order to the following address or the bank account mentioned below. Kindly contact and inform the IBT office if you send it through the bank.

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Account Number : 1630413107
Name : Word Publishers Trust
Bank : Central Bank of India
Branch : Kalapatti
IFSC Code : CBIN0282057

WORD PUBLISHERS TRUST

Civil Aerodrome Road, Coimbatore - 641 014.

Contact No. 90470 57414

SATHTHIYA VAARTHAI - ENGLISH

Date of Publishing : 2nd & 3rd December 2024

Postal Regd. No. **CB/051/2024-26**

Licensed to Post without Prepayment No.

TN/WR/CB/163/WPP/2024-2026 (English)

RNI No. 82165