

## Prayer request and acknowledgements

Testimony of John Somaiah regarding over 58 years of born again experience.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord!

Greetings to you all in the most precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I have been led of our Lord, to write my testimony of my half a century of spiritual life, (1957 – 2015) where God led me by His mercy and grace.

Even though I was born to spiritual Christian parents, where my late father was one of the elders at the church at Jehovah Shammah, Chennai, India and myself attended Sunday school from my childhood, I did not have a practical experience of having accepted, Lord Jesus Christ as my personal saviour till my 8<sup>th</sup> year.

While I was 9 years old, on the Good Friday of 1957 which fell on April 19, as usual as a family we gathered for daily family prayer, and while we were singing a song in Telugu language, about the sufferings of Lord Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary, I broke in to spontaneous tears on the realization that God did not only suffer and die for the sins of the entire world, but more specifically for my own sins! After finishing singing, my late father read a portion from Scriptures, about Peter's denial. God by His divine grace convicted me of the fact, that I was also denying Him like Peter, as long as I did not openly confess that Lord Jesus Christ is my personal Savior. After meditation of His holy word, I was given an opportunity to pray and when I began to pray upon my knees, God convicted me of all my sins that I have committed and gave me grace to confess them one by one, as if I could see all of my sins projected on a

screen like a film, scene after scene. After prayer and after receiving the forgiveness and cleansing by the blood of Lord Jesus Christ, I received, wonderful peace and joy unspeakable, and I was given a promise from the Word of God that my name also is written in the book of life in heaven on April 19, 1957. Praise to His holy name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

As soon as I was thus born again, I came out of my home to out doors in to the open skies and in my ignorance, looked up for the second coming of Lord Jesus Christ and I thought, how wonderful if He did that, in order that I shall be caught up with Him in the mid-air, straight away! When that did not happen, I even looked around, whether there would be some good friend of mine, who would even kill me in order that I may go up to the presence of my God, straight away!! Both these things did not happen, since I learnt later on that, God gives us the experience of being born again not to take us immediately in to His presence, but to live in this world as His witness till the time God comes back for Second time! Therefore, I thank my God for His purposes in my life in order to bring Glory to His matchless name!

I would like to brief on my 58 years of my spiritual experience with the Lord and in His service. This is only for encouragement for a few that God can use them much more better than myself. Please do not misunderstand that I am writing these to boast about myself, since I could do only what I am supposed to do and sometimes not even did what I am supposed to do! At the outset, I thank the Lord for the favor I have received from Him and my cobelievers and God's servants who helped me all through my 58 years of spiritual life, in guiding me, instructing me, chastening me and training me to be a chosen vessel unto His honor.

They are as follows:-

1. My beloved parents, Late Bro. Bhaskara Rao and Late Sis. Mrs. Santhoshamma Bhaskara Rao who taught me the way I should live from my childhood.

2. All my own brothers, Sudarsana Rao, James, Peter, Andrews, Abraham, Ebenezar, Prabhudoss and sisters Hepsy, Jehosheba, Esther, Beulah, Joy, Jerusha, and Bahgyam and their children who always loved me and gave their suggestions in the ministry of God.
3. Late Bro. Parre Moses and Late Sis. Sundaramma Parre, parents of Johanna, my dear wife. I had the privilege to translate my father-in-law's messages from English to Telugu for few consecutive Sundays, while he was preaching at Telugu Christian Congregation, Kuwait in the year 1971
4. Bro. Alfred Joseph and late Sis. Mrs. Mercy Joseph who were instrumental to bring me to Kuwait and in my marriage and all their children and grand children who loved me and encouraged me in the God's ministry.
5. Late Bro. Bakht Singh and all the elders and deacons at the church at Jehovah Shammah for their teaching and training which I received from my 9<sup>th</sup> year when I was born again, till my 23<sup>rd</sup> year (total 13 years) while at India. The specialization of training was in preaching in the streets two days in a week, and by attending in all the activities of the church 4 evenings in a week. Later on I came to Kuwait in the year 1970.
6. Late Bro. N. Phillip, who was one of the elders at the Worship Service at Kuwait, where I had received much encouragement to minister God's Word both at Worship Service as well as at Tamil Christian Congregation, Kuwait.
7. Apostle Dr. Livingston Gadde, who was my mentor at Kuwait from 1970 till date (2007) in encouraging me to take part in all the activities at Telugu Christian Congregation, Kuwait as well as to share the ministry along with him at Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Sultanate of Oman and Qatar. Also to participate in the ministry along with him at different districts at Andhra Pradesh, India through Global Telugu Christian Ministries. For his encouragement in the Bible College at Kuwait where I had the privilege to study Bachelor of Theology and to be its President and travel to Gulf countries

- to start similar degree course in those places and to visit them a few times as well as few other bible colleges at Andhra Pradesh. Also he introduced me to minister in Lutheran churches at Guntur. Apostle Dr. Livingston gave opportunity for me to minister God's word through Television for couple of times through Teja T.V. which was broadcasted to few countries of the world.
8. Dr. Bilmoria who incorporated me in the above mentioned T.V. programmes.
  9. Sis. Miss Marion Jenner who introduced me to Sunday School ministry at "Son shine Hour", Kuwait where I could serve for few years.
  10. Late Bro. Bakht Singh who took me and Johanna 1981 to attend International Convocation at Syracuse, United States of America and to attend International Convocation at Paris, France, via London, in the same year. This great man of God has performed our marriage in the year 1970.
  11. Late Apostle Paramjyothi who took me to an International Conference at Maryland, United States of America in the year 1993 and then to visit churches at Varginia
  12. Bro. Charles Wesley, who took me to International Health Care Fellowship, where I could attend their International Conference where delegates from 80 countries attended at South Africa in 2000. Also to minister His word at Abudhabi, United Arab Emirates in their National Health Care Fellowship conference in 2001
  13. Bro. Vijaya Bhaskar who introduced me to Haggai Regional Director, who in turn enabled me to attend Haggai Institute at Singapore for one month training along with participants from 30 countries in 2005
  14. Dr. Chigurupati David and Dr. Joseph Paturi, who gave me privilege to participate in Christian Family conferences that was conducted in eight states of United States of

- America in 1995 and to visit Temple Baptist College at Cincinnati, Ohio.
15. Late Bro. C. Samuel who introduced me to churches in Calcutta, Darjeeling and Kalimpong in West Bengal, India, where I could minister the Word of God.
  16. Bro. K. Phillip who recommended my name to Bro. Eddy Williams who took me along with him to various churches at Pathankot, Faridabad, and Amritsar at Punjab and at New Delhi, India
  17. Dr. Paul Devakumar who took me along with him to Bangalore in Karnataka, Amritsar at Punjab, Jammu at Jammu and Kashmir, India to visit churches and to minister His Holy word. Dr. Paul Devakumar who being my childhood friend and classmate, took me to Waga Border to view Pakistan from the Indian border and to see the golden temple at Amritsar, Punjab to see as to how Sikhs worship in their famous Gurudwar.
  18. Late Bro. Kumaradoss who encouraged me in the ministry while I was fellowshipping at their prayer meetings at their home and subsequently in the church compound, Kuwait for few years.
  19. Bro. Yesupadam who was kind to introduce me to minister at few churches at Hyderabad, India and encouraged me at Global Telugu Christian Ministries.
  20. Bro. Arul Raj who took me along with him for participating in crusades in couple of places at Chennai, Suburbs of Nagercoil and Kanyakumari at Tamil Nadu, India.
  21. Bro. Joshua of Chennai, who took me along with a group of believers to Kerala, India for outreach work.
  22. Bro. Judson and Sis. Mrs Preetha Judson to visit their place at Warangal and to participate in one of their crusades at Chittoor
  23. Bro. Harry Gomes to visit their church at Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu and to participate in crusades at Nizamabad and Bhimavaram in Andhra Pradesh.

24. Bro Jeremiah who took me along with him for ministry at Andamans Islands
25. Late Bro. Prakash Rao who took me along with him to speak in conventions at Mukundavaram, Andhra Pradesh, India for the first time in my life.
26. Bro. Devasahayam to minister God's word in their church at Digamarru were my maternal uncle ministered in that church as a Pastor
27. Rev. Augustine, who enabled me to visit Baptist church at Ongle, where my late father was born and brought up till his marriage.
28. Senior Pastor, Jerry Zandstra who encouraged my son, Issac to study at Bible College, at Sydney, Australia.
29. Rev. Gabriel who introduced me to Believers' Fellowship at Aakiveedu to minister in their yearly conventions where 50,000 people attend, for couple of times as well as to minister God's word at Lutheran church at Bhimavaram and church at Kottada, in Andhra Pradesh, India. Also at Kakinada and Appaniramula Lanka at Andhra Pradesh.
30. Bro. Krupanand Dake and Bro. Stephen Pilli who introduced me to Bishop Samuel Finney Anthervedipalem yearly Conventions where 10,000 people attend where I could minister the Word for couple of times.
31. God gave me grace to interpret the sermons of God's servants from English to Telugu and Tamil to Telugu on various occasions.
32. Bro. Dr. Isaiah gave me the opportunity to minister the word in Gunta Grounds, Guntur where I was born.
33. Late Rev. Dr. David Prabhakar, who introduced me to minister in couple of Lutheran churches at Guntur
34. Bro. Joseph who introduced me to the Church at Shankaraguptam where I could have privilege of sharing God's word in their yearly conventions where around 5,000 people gather.

35. Bro. Aseervadam gave me opportunity to attend the Gideon's International Leaders Conference which was held at Dulbai in the year 2007.
36. Telugu Telugu Church gave me the opportunity to attend the Pastor's conference at Cyprus.
37. Bro. Kuruvilla, who gave me opportunity to minister at his church at Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India.
38. Rev. C. Samuel of Hyderabad who gave me opportunity to minister God's word at Baptist church at Hyderabad.
39. Bro Manohar at Marathi Congregation, Kuwait to minister Word of God for couple of times.
40. Bro. Varghese at Malayali Congregation, Bahrain to minister God's word in their midst.
41. Bro. Samuel who gave me privilege to minister at Karnataka Congregation, at Kuwait.
42. Bishop Sudheer Kumar, who took me to Thandas where tribal people live in Nalgonda area, Andhra Pradesh to minister God's word to them.
43. Bro. Joseph Moses, who took me to hills where tribal people live around Vishakapatnam and to minister God's word in couple of their churches
44. Bro. David of Chennai, who introduced me to Telugu Baptist Church, Chennai (in which church I was dedicated as a baby) to minister His word and in couple of other churches
45. Bro. and Sis. Mrs. Ramesh Pandian who encouraged me to translate messages from Tamil to English or Telugu and I was blessed in their Vineyard Fellowship on Mondays for few years.
46. All Senior Pastors, Pastors, Elders, Deacons and Chairpersons of different sub committees of Telugu Christian Congregations in the State of Kuwait, who gave me an open door to minister His word in their jurisdictions.

47. My son, Mathew, for having introduced me to Senior Pastor at Coastal Church at Vancouver, Canada and to have fellowship in their church for a month.
48. My son, Issac, who introduced me to the Senior Pastor at Hill Song Church at Sydney, Australia where I could have fellowship for a fortnight.
49. Bishop John Lazarus who gave me opportunity to minister at their annual conventions at Rajahmundry, India
50. Bro. Joseph Jeya Babu who gave me the opportunity to minister His Word at Ravulapalem in their Youth retreat.

Since, I do not have any written records, I have just recalled all the above from my weak memory and therefore, I must confess and ask forgiveness from them whose names I have inadvertently not mentioned, who nevertheless, were instrumental to introduce me, to various ministries and churches and I am much grateful to them too over and above the names I have specifically mentioned.

By the grace of our Lord, the following are the years in which I have served along with my wife, Johanna in different congregations at Kuwait after serving 13 years at Church at Jehovah Shammah, Chennai, India in single status from 1957 till 1970 in outreach work.

1971 till present (2007) Telugu Christian Congregation  
1970 till 1995 Worship service  
1970 till 1985 Tamil Christian Congregation  
1972 till 1977 Son Shine Hour Sunday School  
1998 till present (2007) Bible College  
2001 till present (2007) Global Telugu Christian Ministries

During overlapping years, the ministries were performed (or) are being performed simultaneously

All the above mentioned ministries are being performed after working for 8 hours on daily basis at the secular job as follows:-

1966 till 1967 Corporation of Chennai

1968 till 1970 Employees Insurance Corporation, Chennai

1971 till 1972 National Bank of Kuwait, Kuwait

1973 till 1977 United Trading Group (Foreign Exch.)Co., Kuwait

- Worked for some weeks at Arab Investment Company, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

- Worked for some months at Kuwait Investment Co., Bahrian

1977 till present (2007) at Kuwait Investment Co., Kuwait

Also while family responsibilities grew step by step from a single status to having 4 children and 3 grand children as on 2007.

Out of one calendar year, God enabled me to be out of Kuwait for total 2 months period to serve the Lord overseas, and for total period of 3 months full time at Kuwait (40 two day week-ends with 10 Public holidays) and total period of 7 months on part time basis after secular working hours daily from 7.30 AM till 3.00 PM

My thanks to my eldest daughter, Hannah along with her husband Manish, grand daughter, Suzanne and grand son, Malachi who are at Kuwait, My eldest son, Mathew, his wife Zeenie, grand daughter, Zeanne who are now at Vancouver, Canada, my daughter, Lydia who is now at Dubai, United Arab Emirates, my son, Issac, his wife, Carla who are now at Sydney, Australia who all, stood with me in all my endeavours in serving our Lord Jesus Christ and the cooperation and sacrifice they have extended to me, to spare me physically from them for hours on daily basis while at Kuwait and for weeks while outside Kuwait to serve our Lord Jesus Christ, and they gave family funds to be used for the extension of His Kingdom as well edification of His church at Kuwait, India and few other countries. Last but not the least the sincere prayers of many brothers and sisters in few countries, who have truly supported me in order to have open doors for me to preach Christ the crucified.

Saying goes, that behind success of every man there is a woman and I thank God for my wife, Johanna who sacrificed with me in serving our Lord as well as traveling with me overseas trips. Johanna is now serving as Vice President at Bible College, Kuwait, Leader of Womens' Fellowship at Telugu Christian Congregation, Kuwait as well as executing responsibilities that goes along for being a Senior Pastor's wife in our church. In the past, she served as a Sunday School teacher at Son Shine Hour for few years as well as a Chairperson for Telugu Christian Congregation, Kuwait Sunday School for a couple of years.

God gave me the opportunity for me and my wife, Johanna either to attend or to minister at the following GTCM Conferences held at the following places both of us together, or myself alone or Johanna alone.

1. Global Conferences at Kuwait and Hyderabad
2. Gulf Conference at Abu Dhabi
3. Pastor's Conference at Warangal, Medak, Vikarabad and Narsapur
4. Women's Conference at CUdapah, Palakol and Guntur.
5. Youth Conference at Bangalore
6. Children's at Bangalore
7. Attended GTCM Board Meeting couple of times at Ex-officio member at Hyderabad

My grateful thanks to Dr. Sadanandam who was kind to introduce me to the pastor at famous and historical C.S.I. Church at Medak.

God's servant late Bro. Bakta Singh taught us at Youth Camp at Vellore in the year January 1969, sevenfold importance of God's will, sevenfold ways we can find Gods will and sevenfold proofs to check whether what you found, is God's will or not. As soon as I returned to Chennai, God gave me the opportunity to come to Kuwait and I started praying and those sincere prayers went on fervently for 18 long months on a daily basis. Finally God gave me a blessed promise from Genesis 12:1,2,3, and I left to Kuwait in the year 1970.

Now the LORD had said unto Abram,

1. Get thee out of thy country, and
2. from thy kindred, and
3. from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:
  - a. I will make of thee a great nation, and
  - b. I will bless thee, and
  - c. make thy name great; and
  - d. thou shalt be a blessing: And
  - e. I will bless them that bless thee, and
  - f. curse him that curseth thee: and
  - g. in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

I can say truthfully and honestly with all my humbleness that God is fulfilling that promise in my personal, family, church and secular life in an amazing way and I am yet to see its fulfillment more and more as days pass by. Glory be to His precious name! Amen.

My thanks to Apostle Dr. Livingstone Gadde, Bro. Swamidoss Kandela and Late Bro. Moses Bandi, who all gave me opportunity to pray with them for a period of nine months on every Wednesday evening prior to the opening day of Telugu Christian Congregation, Kuwait in September 1971.

Requesting your continued prayers for us,

I remain,

Yours lovingly,

Rev. Dr. John Somaiah

Senior Pastor at Telugu Christian Congregation, Kuwait

President, Bible College (Degree level in English or Telugu) Kuwait

Chairman, Global Telugu Christian Ministries, Kuwait.

Senior Officer, Kuwait Investment Company, Kuwait

Mailing address:-

C/O Kuwait Investment Company,

P.O.Box 1005, Safat

13011 Safat, Kuwait

International roaming Telephone 99700949 (Kuwait code

965) Email: [johnsomaiah@gmail.com](mailto:johnsomaiah@gmail.com)

Website: [www.johnsomaiah.com](http://www.johnsomaiah.com)

E. & O. E

RSVP