

From Barrenness



Stepping onto New Shores

I was working for World Vision in India for two years. As I prayed, I felt that God was leading us to a new place. Just around that time, I got a call from a friend inviting me to apply for the post of Programmer in his church in Singapore. That church was Trinity.

As Programming was not my area of expertise, I started looking around for friends who would be able to fill that position. However I could not find any. Somehow, the only candidate left was me. After consideration and much prayer, I felt that the opening would be a great platform for me to learn new things. Since the position was in a line I was familiar with, I decided to take the job up.

Having discussed this with my wife Rosline, we felt that this was an open door by God. Together, we prayed it through. We felt that through this, God would bless us – not just financially but as a family as well.



to Posterity

Where the medical world predicted barrenness, IT executive **Joseph Dhanraj** held on to God's promise of posterity. He shares how clinging onto God, bore fruit.

My family and friends were against the idea. They were concerned about the hefty expenses involved, as well as the costs we had to bear travelling back and forth between the two countries. But because we prayed, we felt the assurance of God that He would bless us; with this, we made the decision to go.



God's Favour

Prior to our arrival in Singapore, for two months, that friend who asked me to come over had already been helping us source for suitable accommodation. However,

our search was futile as the units either exceeded our budget or did not suit our preferences. Yet miraculously, on July 3 last year, the day we touched down, we went to view our first flat and we liked it very much. It suited all our preferences. God provided for us just in time!

One of the biggest challenges faced upon reaching Singapore to work was in the area of finances. There was once I used up all the money I had brought over and had to ask my friend to lend me \$10 just to top up my Ez-Link card, just so I could travel back that night. However, God's timing was perfect. That very day, Human Resource gave word that I would be able to get my pay early; they had made arrangements for that to be done.

On Rocky Roads

My wife and I have been married for six years now. About one and a half years into our marriage, Rosline conceived. Our happiness was soon short-lived; 45 days later, she suffered a miscarriage. She became very weak and suffered a series of complications. One of it was a urinal infection and the treatment for this dragged on for a while. For the next two years, she was unable to conceive as she underwent the treatments.

The doctor also said that because of our age (we were in our 30s), it would be difficult for us to conceive. To further compound the problem, there was also the issue of our previous miscarriage, the cause of which was still unaccounted for.

The doctor advised us to explore other medical means of conceiving. These included Artificial Insemination (AI) or Intra-uterine Insemination (IU), which was a hefty \$5,000 and provided a 30% chance of us conceiving. He could not guarantee us that we would have a child even after going through this process. Hence, in the end we did not subscribe to these medical means because of cost

and conviction. Instead, we chose to trust God. He was our only guarantee.

Family members started asking what was wrong with

us and why we were not having a child. My wife was stressed and upset. Good-intentioned friends tried to recommend different doctors and treatments to her. I wondered to myself, *if God can give other couples children, why not us?* It was a very disappointing, painful and trying time.

Blessing of a Spiritual Family

I knew that when I went to Singapore, God was leading us to a place of blessing and truly He was. During this ordeal, I was very thankful for the comfort and support of a carecell in the East. The carecell members prayed for my wife and I to have a child. In my first meeting with my Office Cell, they also asked for a prayer request. I was pleasantly surprised and honoured to have the cell asking me about my needs

and being prayed for by them. Pastor Kenny, the Office Cell leader even assured me that God is able to meet all my needs. I was very encouraged.

At Watchnight last year, we were unable to attend the service in Trinity as we were in India. However, we went online to listen to the sermon. The Prophetic Word for the coming year (2009) was to 'Enter into Abundant Living'. When my wife and I heard it, we felt that this was it – it was God's rhema word for us! Together, we claimed God's promise of Posterity.



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Miracle in Motion

Months passed, and Rosline continued suffering from the list of complications arising from the miscarriage. One such complication was an on-and-off abdominal pain.

Contrary to our hopes, in addition to the series of complications after the miscarriage, Rosaline began developing severe and unbearable abdominal pains in February. She had to go back to India for her sister's wedding and so bore with the pain for about three months.

In April, the pains got worse. Scans revealed that she had cysts in her ovaries. Doctors in Chennai remarked that leaving the cysts untreated would lead to more pain and slowly cause infertility. They prescribed medicine which would alleviate the pain and treat the cysts but commented that the medication would act as a contraceptive which would further induce barrenness. Medically, nearly all chances of us having a baby were forfeited.

In June, Rosline came back to Singapore with a bag of medicine but she did not want to take them because they had contraceptive effects.

Miraculously, she conceived within that very month.

We were greatly surprised and gave praises to God. Finally, our long wait for a child was over!

When she went for a check-up at Kandang Kerbau Hospital (KKH), the doctor said that her projected date

of delivery would be on March 1. **Amazingly, the miscarriage in 2006 also occurred on March 1**, which my wife remembers very vividly. We felt that it was God's way of restoring His promise to us.

My wife was scheduled to go for a scan on January 26, but at 5am that morning, her water bag began to leak. She was immediately rushed to hospital. After eight hours, she was still not able to go into delivery. The medical team decided upon a caesarian. During the caesarian operation, the doctors found two cysts in each ovary. They promptly removed the cysts and there were no complications. Praise God!

My son, though premature by about four weeks, is a healthy baby. The doctor even said that his weight at



birth, 2.67 kg, is above the norm for babies born premature. His features are so well-formed that there is no way you could tell he was born early! After one week in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), we were finally able to bring little Joshua home.

Reflections

I believe that God has brought me to Singapore for His purpose in our lives. This journey of obedience has strengthened my faith. What He has determined to bless, no one can take away. **Where the medical world predicted barrenness, God has promised Posterity.** God likes to bless His children, we should never doubt Him. His ways are not just good; they are perfect!

