

The Earnest Prayer for Jackfruits

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Living in a small village called Pukuri, about 350 kilometers north-west of Dhaka, Bangladesh, Bahamoni used to live near the level of bottom-most poverty. Both Jotin, her husband, and Bahamoni were neither educated. With five children to provide, it was a daily struggle for their family. She kept looking for ways to take care of her family's needs by making use of a small plot of land they possessed to plant some jackfruit trees. She had a high hope that soon they would be bearing fruits and becoming a major source of income to provide family's consumption and other necessities.

Soon the jackfruit trees grew healthy and began to show signs of abundant crop. A big storm, however, came and blew past the area. It destroyed the vegetations and damaged crops extensively. Most of Bahamoni's jackfruit trees were uprooted by the strong wind. The remaining jackfruit trees were not promising neither. Only the trunks and broken branches were visible. She felt greatly discouraged and had very little hope on the remaining jackfruit trees. She was doubtful if they would survive and provide income that her family badly needed.

One day, Bahamoni met and befriended with the friendly wife of the Seventh-day Adventist church pastor in the village. The pastor's wife shared her Adventist Christian faith and told her to have faith in God. She even advised her to pray for even the littlest thing in life. Bahamoni decided to pray for her jackfruit trees.

In no time, the pastor's wife began inviting Bahamoni to attend church services on Sabbaths, and she gladly yielded. She later brought along her five children, and they loved to be there as well. Unfortunately, when her husband found out, he was not happy for them to attend church. He threatened them with severe punishments in order to stop his wife and children going to church. But despite her husband's anger and straining family relationship, Bahamoni could not give up her going to church. She had, instead, become a very committed and supportive member of the local church in returning tithes to God and giving offerings to support the church. She and her children never came to church

empty-handed. When there was no money to bring to church, she would make sure that each of her children carry a spoon of rice to put into the offering bag. She declared proudly with a broad smile, "Because of the blessings God showers upon me and my family, He deserves everything I have." Above all, she did not give up her prayers and hope for the better in everything including her jackfruit trees.

Bahamoni soon began to witness how God did answer her prayers. Her oldest son had an opportunity of education that she never had. He went to Bangladesh Adventist Seminary and College (BASC) and graduated. With his education, he was able to look for a proper job and more available job opportunities. Her husband, Jotin, had a change of heart too; this was due to her enduring faith and trust in God. He began attending church services on Sabbath along with the entire family.

At the end, the jackfruit trees did not only survive. They have been thriving with profitable outcomes. Every due season now, Bahamoni and her family enjoy harvesting lots of jackfruits. The abundance crop continues to aid financially her family needs. Besides, even without proper education, she has been accepted to work with a non-government organization and earns a better living for her family. Indeed, God always hears every prayer rendering to Him in a humbling way, including the prayer for the jackfruit trees!