

**April 2013**

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The daily devotion from the Our Daily Bread is a tremendous blessing in my life. The recent devotion by one pastor Bill Crowder has immensely challenged my heart. He writes, "When I was pastoring a small church, we faced a huge crisis. Unless we could complete the extensive renovations necessary to bring our building up to the proper safety codes, we would lose our place of worship. A desperate time of fund raising ensued to pay for those renovations; but of all the money given, one gift captured our leadership's attention.

An elderly woman in the church donated several hundred dollars to the project - money we knew she could not spare. We thanked her for her gift but wanted to return it, feeling that her needs were greater than the church's. However, she refused to take the money back. She had been saving for years in order to buy a stove and was cooking on a hot plate in the meantime. Yet she insisted that she needed a place to worship with her church family more than she needed a stove"

When I read this devotion, what reminded me immediately is so many of our donors who gave lavishly so that the church families in India have a place of worship than their important needs in life. As you can see from these updates, the ministry in India continues to grow, and the Lord continues to bless the work there. Following are some of the reports and needs from India for your prayer and support.

### **Medical Mission Trip (James and Rosie Poulouse)**

This is our first medical mission to India. Fourteen health professionals took part in this trip. We arrived in India on Jan 28<sup>th</sup> and Evangelist Babu Thomas received us at the airport. Babu and Grace Thomas serving the Lord in Bastar over 30 years ministering to the Halba people through translation of the Bible, and their other needs.

We woke up the next morning to the sound of children coming to school around 6:45 a.m. When the team arrived the children welcomed us with a tribal dance and escorted us to the auditorium where we introduced ourselves. We had a great time with the children and the teachers. Then we packed the medications we brought with us for distribution and set up the clinic. The chapel ground became the waiting area, and it was here that the gospel was presented to each patient. We saw patients from 10:30 a.m to 5:30p.m. We saw more than 900 patients, distributed medicines worth of \$74,000. The majority of the patients walked anywhere from 5-16 kilometers to arrive to the clinic, so meals were provided for them. While they are waiting God's servants came from the surrounding areas and preached the gospel. We believe at least 100 people took the decision to accept Jesus Christ as their Savior.

It was such a wonderful experience and we will never forget these delightful days in India. We thank God for allowing us to visit our evangelist Babu Thomas and his wife and witness how they are being greatly used for the blessings of the tribal people. Please keep them in your prayers, especially the translation of the New Testament in Halibi which is expected to complete during 2014.

One of the highlights of our trip was the trip to Kerala to see a brother called "Kochu Varkey" of Kalady who came to the Lord from the RC background few years ago. He was very well respected in the Catholic church. He came to the Lord several years ago, and currently in fellowship at Angamally Brethren Assembly. Because of his new found faith, his whole family

**April 2013**

went against him. He had lot of property and money. He has divided his property among his children, took a small share for himself.

In his portion of the land, he has built the local assembly hall and 5 houses for the poor people who lived near the church. He has not only donated the land for the buildings, but also worked day in and day out to construct those buildings by laboring from very early morning to till evening. I was so blessed and privileged to see the Assembly hall and their houses and then some time with him. He is a great witness for the Lord in that local community.

### **Mission Report, Kalna, West Bengal - By Sadabdi Banerjee**

Kalna is one of the towns situated on the western bank of the river Bhagirathi. The town is named after the popular deity of goddess Kali, Maa Ambika. It has numerous historical monuments and temples. Kalna is famous for rice, food grains, potato and jute production. After the partition of India, many skilled weavers of Dhaka (now the country of Bangladesh) came and settled here producing superb fabrics. However, the entire economy is controlled by the immigrants, leaving the Adivasi people very poor. The illiteracy among them is very high. The predominant religion in Kala consists of three major religions: Hinduism, Islam and Spiritism. Christians remain a microscopic minority. For the majority Christ remains unknown and unaccepted God.



An assembly testimony exists in this region, a work started by Bro. Anjan Sarkar, a graduate from Bengal Bible Training Institute. Commended from Adra Brethren Assembly, he and his family have been serving the Lord here for the past sixteen years. A few Bengali and more Adivasi have accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior and are part of the Kalna Brethren Assembly.

Being from extremely poor background, the believers lack basic amenities and facilities. Most of them are completely illiterate. So, the immediate need is to provide adult literacy and also starting schools for the children. The poor believers must be provided with material support to generate daily income to sustain their day to day lives.

The need of the place overwhelmed me as I witnessed the abject poverty and no one there to encourage them. Persecuted by society, denied access to the village amenities for living, these believers suffer loneliness and helplessness. The female among these believers suffer more for

**April 2013**

their faith. They walk miles to work in others fields to support their own needs. The assembly here is too poor to support these believers. They need our constant prayer and urgent support.

### **Mission Trip - By Johnson Kurian**

Dr, James Elrod from Tennessee and I made a one month trip to Delhi, Hyderabad, Mumbai and Bangalore. Our mission began at Delhi visiting the "Christian Resource Center" run by Thompson Kurian. It was a great opportunity for us to get an in-depth look at the role of Christian literature spreading gospel in India. We along with 10 other team members went on a prayer walk beginning at "India Gate" and ends at the Presidential palace. We walked about 5 miles praying for India and her people more than a billion of them now.

Next we went to Sagar, MP. This was our most dangerous trip. I grew up in Sagar where my father late Evangelist, T.A. Kurian, served the Lord. After he left Sagar in 1999, I had been consistently supporting the village ministry in Sagar. One thing this time I was not aware of was how much hatred towards Jesus spread by the fanatics. Persecution of Christians is now institutionalized. It is only from the Lord that I was not at all anxious about the dangers. We took part in the baptism ceremony of 30 believers in 8 different villages.



Please continue to uphold India in your prayers. Open preaching of the gospel is a thing of the past in India. This is a country closing its doors to the gospel, willfully rejecting the light and embracing the darkness.

Now may I add few words about my dad, late T. A. Kurian. He was the first missionary to go to North India from Kerala. He was a young man, working as a teacher, and married to a teacher as well. In the mid 1930s, he left the comfort of Kerala, and began his journey of faith. He had one suitcase in his hand, travelling with his wife Mariama and 2 daughters, Jane and Lilly. He travelled to North India not knowing where the Lord would lead him.

Finally he settled down in a small town called Sagar. That is where I was born as the sixth of eight children. The God of Abraham and Jacob led my father to this great journey of faith, spreading the good news of Jesus. My father passed away in 2007, at the age of 86. He requested that I never forget the people whom he served so passionately. His mantle fell on me. The burden to care for poor believers in that remote village of Sagar continues to ignite my soul every day.

**April 2013**

### **Children's Ministry through Schools - Godson Valayil**

I am a full-time evangelist commended by Puthenkunnu Brethren Assembly and serving primarily among children and youth in the Southern states of India. I am specially trained to communicate with children using puppets, media and literature. I have approached public and private schools. They have appreciated the fact that I am communicating essential truth and moral values. I have developed a team for this ministry and we have already presented these programs to children in hundreds of private and public schools.



There is a governmental provision for moral education and the schools have set aside a one-hour period every week for moral science or religious study. We have structured our program around such moral lesson. Towards the end of our program, we present a story from the Bible. We have also freedom to distribute literature to the teachers and to the students. Along with the other literature, we also distribute Our Daily Bread and a booklet titled "Men Who Met The Master" published by the Emmaus Correspondence School. In the years of 2011 and 2012, we have ministered more than 110,000 children in 152 schools. About 70 schools have been lined up for the year 2013. We are involved with taking the gospel to children through other avenues including radio and TV. The needs are increasing in leaps and bounds. We have formed different teams to assist with different outreaches. Transporting the team members and equipment remains a big challenge and praying for a jeep.

### **Sex Trafficking a major curse in India - Jincy Tharu**

"Learn to do good; seek justice, rebuke the oppressor, defend the fatherless, plead for the widow" Isaiah 1:17

The lost, the destitute...they are all around us, then how do they go unnoticed? Why are they not cared for or pursued with the love of God? Have we forgotten our mandate when it comes to certain types of people? Do we often disregard the Lord's voice to pray for the ones that have been hurt the most; to seek out the ones that the world has rejected, to tell them that He will and does love them when no one else will?

Let us rediscover our Lord's heart for His creation, for His beloved. One part of that is reaching out to the population of commercial sex workers and their children. They have been trafficked into it; forced into it by loved ones; had no other means for survival; some were born in to it. Each day, they believe a little more strongly that there is no way out. They do not realize that they have a Savior, who gave Himself for them. Their minds cannot even comprehend such

**April 2013**

unconditional love because they've never received love; and the false version of love they have received has always come with a price.



I moved to India in October 2012 to follow the Lord's desire for these women and these kids to be freed from their shackles of abuse, torture, lies, and utter emptiness. I won't tell you that all these women need is to be reached out to, it is much harder than that. Currently, I don't work with those who have been rescued; I work with those who have resigned to themselves to staying in the brothels because they believe they have no other options. They have been taught to survive through lying and manipulation. It takes quite some time to win their trust and to even reach that part of their heart where they are willing to give life a new look, to consider a new possibility, to work past their hurts.

Till then, you have to endure being lied to; being yelled at randomly; risk of harm from brothel owners; and investing a lot of time and energy into someone who could move to another brothel, never to be seen again; or worse they die from being beaten by a customer or a disease they acquired. I think all of us would agree, the hardest, is realizing a soul has been lost for eternity. To keep going forward in the midst of all this is only the grace of God. In the short time I have been here, I cannot tell you the number of times I've wanted to run back to the comforts of home. It is then that the Lord reminds me, they don't have a home to run to like I do, they don't have a hope like I do, they don't have the assurance of eternity with their loving Father like I do. Even more, I, along with so many, took so long to surrender to Jesus' love; He strived with us through much, and so I am reminded that we have to do the same with the ones that we are trying to reach with His love. In Psalm 9:18 we are reminded, "For the needy shall not always be forgotten; the expectation of the poor shall not perish forever".

I'd like to leave you with a few thoughts. Has there been anyone to show them the way? Has there been anyone to tell them there is a hope beyond their despair? Or do we continue to let them believe the lies that Satan has so thoroughly crushed with? The Lord will do His work, the choice is up to us whether we want to be a part of it or not. Let us meet our Maker as good and faithful servants, whether it is through prayer, providing encouragement or stepping out into that minefield. Let us live each day, all of our moments, for His glory, now and for eternity.

Here are few prayer requests;

1. Wisdom for future steps as I will potentially be stepping away from the current NGO.
2. The women that have decided to leave the brothels would stay firm in that decision and that they would come to faith in Christ.
3. Becoming fluent in Hindi, knowing to read and write, which is crucial as the first constructive step for women leaving the brothel is attaining literacy. In order to teach them, I need to know Hindi well.
4. Adjusting to the Indian culture and understanding the culture in the brothels and low income areas, so that we can meet them where they are and gain their trust.



**April 2013**

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Note: Jincy is commended by the Palos Hills Christian Assembly, Palos Hills, Illinois, and currently serving the Lord in Mumbai. If you need more information about her ministry, please contact the GMI office.

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Canadian brethren can send their gifts through MSC Canada, 101 Amber Street, Suite 16, Markham, Ontario L3R 3B2, Canada for the tax receipts. Those who are in USA can send gifts to GMI or through CMML, P.O. Box 13, Spring Lake, NJ 07762. You may send designated or undesignated gifts.

If you have any questions, please call us at [586-247-7924](tel:586-247-7924) or [586-306-5669](tel:586-306-5669).

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**Yours In Christ,**

**Gospel Missions of India,** P O Box 1043, Warren, MI 48090

Website: [www.gospelmi.org](http://www.gospelmi.org) || Email: [gospelmi@wowway.com](mailto:gospelmi@wowway.com)

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A higher purpose.*

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