



february 2019

INDIA MISSIONS

Under the oversight
of the elders of
Shiloh Church of Christ

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"...from dead idols to serve the living and true God..."
1 Thessalonians 1:9

church of christ india missions

india ink

yes—it's the real deal!

The American Restoration Movement began in the 1790's. The concept of going back to the Bible as our guide in religion, & for unity among believers were driving forces of this movement. The idea of being Christians only—members of the church Jesus built—was widely received in America. By the time the War Between the States began, churches of Christ were the fastest-growing religious body in the country.

The American Restoration Movement is now 230 years old. We have largely lost our evangelistic thrust, resulting in a shrinking membership & a loss in the number of congregations within our borders. This is not pleasing to God, & it is certainly not in keeping with our growing population. In 1860, America had a population of 31.5 million—less than 10% of our current number. In our heyday, some think our brotherhood was baptizing an average of 900 souls daily.

Today in India, millions are becoming Christians. With the acceptance of the Gospel & obedience to it, & with a population of 1,367,000,000, India now has at least 100,000 congregations of the Lord's church (& very possibly twice that number). These numbers are real, factual & true! It is almost impossible to explain how extensive this movement is. India is where America was 150 years ago (in spiritual terms).

Indians are the most religious people in the world, regardless of what religion they embrace. Most are eager to learn—& are accustomed to having a spiritual "guru" (teacher). One study showed that since 2000, those becoming believers in Christ in India is growing at "an exponential rate"! No way to count the numbers!

In the early 60's, Dr. David Barrett, an expert in church growth & mission work, said a global demographic shift in religion was coming. This is exactly what has happened. Christianity is NOT dying—but its center has shifted from Europe & North America to the south—& to the east. A book published in 2007 confirms that in 4 areas of the world—Southeast Asia, China, Africa & INDIA—millions are leaving their native religions & becoming believers in Christ.

How many have become part of this amazing grassroots movement? In 2007 it was 707 million souls, with 175,000 more becoming believers every day in those 4 parts of the world. Much of what is happening in India now is part of this incredible phenomenon. Many thousands of denominational church members are longing to hear the simple truth of God's Word, & upon learning the Truth, they obey it.

In India, entire congregations are leaving man-made "churches" & embracing the same philosophy of the Restoration Movement in America—go back to the Bible, be just a Christian, a member of the church for which Jesus died. The Lord's church in India is exploding with growth. Since 2014, more than 4 million have obeyed the Gospel through our team's combined efforts.

If you think I am crazy, or have been sold a bill of goods, or everyone who works & gives us reports about their efforts is lying to me—please read this. One American brother (who has a separate work) reported in 2018, his team conducted 12,175 Gospel meetings—the number baptized was 100,009. Just received a report from another American brother (who is not part of our work). His team conducted Gospel meetings in 3 states from Dec. 28th thru Jan. 1st, & 1,068 souls were baptized.

(Continued at A LOOK AT INDIA)

india notes

ANALOGIES ABOUT INDIA

In the past 22 years I have been blessed to travel to India 8 times. It is indeed a fascinating country & there are so many people that it simply boggles the mind. When friends ask about my experiences, I try to put them in proper perspective in terms of the population, by using my home state of Texas as an example.

Texas has approximately 29 million citizens, & is 1/5th the size of India (geographically speaking). I tell my friends to imagine 471 million people living in Texas! Usually their eyes get really big & they are simply in shock at the analogy. It is a valid comparison Christians need to grasp. There are tens of millions of individuals everywhere you go in India—many of them want to hear about Jesus.

Another analogy I can use is for those who have witnessed someone "feeding" their fish. Many times it is a pond where someone is raising catfish. The owner gets a small bucket of fish food & invites the visitor to help him/her feed the fish.

When the food is thrown into the water, one quickly witnesses the water "come alive" & churn with activity as uncountable fish begin feasting. Contrast that with one of your fishing memories where you waited & waited for a fish to bite—and nothing ever happened. It was as if there were no fish where you were fishing. Doing mission work in India is comparable to the catfish scene.

Having traveled to numerous countries in Africa, South America, Central America, Europe, Asia & even a little to "down under", I can tell you that I have never witnessed such religious people as those who reside in India. Everywhere, whether traveling in large cities or driving through small towns & villages, there is much evidence of religion being practiced on a widespread basis. Rich and poor, young & old, openly display their "gods" in a very proud way.

Sadly, the vast majority of India's people are caught up in the worship of idols. Many low caste & untouchables—those who are very poor—are growing increasingly dissatisfied with Hinduism. The prejudice of high caste Hindus against the low caste & untouchables has fueled the growth of the Lord's church at a phenomenal rate in India.

In densely populated areas, crowds will quickly gather to listen to a Christian proclaiming the Gospel in one of the narrow lanes snaking through the neighborhood. This leads to Bible studies between some of the serious seekers attending the open-air Gospel meeting & the Christians who arranged the gathering.

(Continued at the TOP of A LOOK AT INDIA)

A LOOK AT INDIA

(Continued from INDIA NOTES)

One thing leads to another & soon 2 or 3 folks who just happened upon that "meeting" (& some of the others who were invited to attend) obey the Gospel—and then the process starts all over again.

As a member of the Lord's church who has supported mission work all over the world, I can honestly say with all my heart that there is not a more fertile mission field in the world than India. The response to the Gospel is simply phenomenal!

Likewise, there is no other field where even small donations can lead to large results. I thank God I know about the Lord's work in India. And I thank God that I can wholeheartedly recommend the work of the India Missions team to all who seek to make a difference with their giving for mission work.

—Glenn Addison—

(Continued from INDIA INK)

Focus on the number of Indian preachers working with us. Focus on the number of 1-day Gospel meetings our team is conducting (last year, 1,600 per day). Focus on the huge population of India. Focus on the great deal of dissatisfaction among millions of Hindus who leave their religion every year & now believe in Jesus—since 2000, that growth has been exponential. Focus on the fact that untouchables & the low caste are living in a religion of hopelessness.

When you focus on the facts, the truth is India is the closest thing in the world today to the first century church (without the apostles & miracles). If America's population during the greatest period of the Restoration Movement was as great as India's now, I have no doubt the numbers of conversions would be very similar to what we are witnessing now in India.

In 2018, our team averaged baptizing 3,100 souls daily. Not home Bible studies set up. Not folks signing up for Bible correspondence courses. Not knocking on doors. Precious souls going down into the water to be baptized & emerging free from sin by the blood of Jesus.

That is what mission work is all about. Teach those who are interested, & when they are convicted of sin by the Truth, baptize them into Christ. It is not supposed to be about methodologies or personal glory—or anything other than to lead lost souls to Jesus.

We should rejoice that souls are obeying the Gospel—wherever it is happening. We need to see the sincere faith of those becoming Christians. In all things, we need to praise God for His powerful Gospel!

KAREN'S KORNER

Before reading "In the Spotlight", I had already decided to write about the tailoring schools that we at India Missions operate in India. These tailoring schools are named Lahoma Crosser Memorial Tailoring Centers, in memory of my mother—she was truly an amazing seamstress. I never had a ready-made dress until I got a job. I was still in high school & I bought my first ready-made dress. My mom even made my pants for Western Day—the only time girls were allowed to wear pants to school (unless the temperature was below freezing).

Oh, how times have changed! She made my formals for the proms (I never danced, but I went all 4 years of high school & visited with friends). From the formal I wore my senior year, she made my wedding dress. She was quite the seamstress.

I haven't started any new tailoring schools in some time, but I have received a request from someone who deserves one, if anyone does. I have known this young lady all her life. She is the daughter of one of the preachers who has worked with us from the very beginning. She married the son of another of our preachers. What a handsome couple they make!

Things don't always work out the way we would like for them to be. This couple was born an autistic son. Their lives have never been the same since. As their son grew into his early teens, he became as strong as most mature men. He could become very violent & often had to be subdued & usually kept on very strong medication. Thankfully, in more recent years, we have placed him in a special school

where he is learning a trade & has developed social skills & is much more self-controlled.

Her husband—Bro. M. Prakash Rao—has asked permission to open a tailoring school which would be taught by his wife. Since she has had to stay at home most of her married life, I believe this is something that would be a wonderful & a welcome change for her. It would give her something to occupy her time while helping other people to learn a trade. She is a very talented & responsible woman—& is capable of organizing & conducting such a project.

The cost of such an undertaking is fairly inexpensive, but had not been included in our budget for this year. However, after praying about it & discussing it with Ron, I have decided to make a request for help from my Christian sisters in the USA.

I need \$2,500 in order to set up this tailoring school. This will enable this sweet sister (appropriately named Sweety) finally to use the talents she has in such a way that she will be of great help to other Christian women.

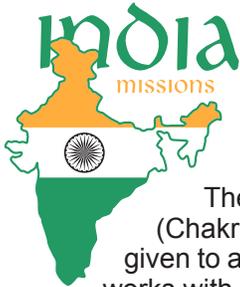
So, if there is any way that our sisters in Christ in the USA would be able to assist with this project, I would certainly appreciate the help. I am not asking anything from anyone I am not willing to give myself. But I need your help in a big way to bless this family—& all the ladies who will profit from such instruction. Any donations for this project should be marked "SWEETY'S SCHOOL". PLEASE HELP! THANKS!



LEFT SIDE: B.N. Jaipaul with a Lombardi (gypsy) woman at a Gospel meeting **TOP ROW:** (L) Top floor is the meeting place for the Navadgeri church in Bidar—D. Prakash's congregation (R) A DPS (denominational preachers' seminar) in Podili **RIGHT SIDE:** 20 rupees given to a preacher from a lady who heard him speak—demonstrating gratitude because she learned the truth on how to be saved from his lesson ("love you sar" is meant to be "love you, sir") **BOTTOM ROW:** (L) These 6 men are working on reports from campaign work from 8 different states in India (R) This is the new daughter of one of our drivers (Ravi & his wife, Sabitha)

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR WORK IN YOUR WILL !

FEBRUARY 2019



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

NOTE FROM CHAKKI

The following is a note from B. Chakki (Chakravarthi) concerning assistance given to a Christian woman whose husband works with us. This is Chakki's note:

"Sis. Karen—you helped the wife of a co-worker (B. Ram Babu) with a sewing machine several years ago. She & her family are now living very happily with the income she is earning by stitching clothes. They have a better life for their daily food & needs. They are very thankful for your help.

"Sister, earlier this month I went to their place where I do the work of conducting Gospel meetings. Sis. Navamani (the wife of Ram Babu) cried & expressed her heartfelt thanks for your help. She requested me to tell you she desired to stitch some punjabis (**Indian pant suits with a very long dress—RC**) for you. Sis. Navamani told me she will do some embroidery work for each one.

"So I purchased material for 3 punjabis for you & gave to her. Sister, she needs a pattern of one of your punjabis to make the new ones. Many other Christian ladies are sending their thanks to you for your help."

This is one of the projects we utilize to assist our Indian brethren. We believe we should, as much as possible, teach them how to fish instead of giving them a fish. We have provided sewing machines for preachers, their wives &/or Christian widows so they can earn a living & support themselves.

This project is ongoing. We have been able to give these recipients a way to earn money because some of our readers have sent funds for this project. We want to thank you—just like Sis. Navamani did.

OUR WORK DEPENDS UPON FINANCIAL GIFTS FROM MANY SOURCES. EACH MONTH, WE SPEND AN AMOUNT LARGE ENOUGH TO CONDUCT AT LEAST 40,000 GOSPEL MEETINGS. WE SEND OUT INDIAN BRETHREN TO PREACH THE UNSEARCHABLE RICHES OF CHRIST TO THEIR OWN PEOPLE.

THIS ENABLES HUGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE INTERESTED IN LEARNING THE BIBLE TO HEAR THE TRUTH. OUR WORK IS DONE ALMOST ENTIRELY BY OUR INDIAN BRETHREN. LAST YEAR, MORE THAN 582,000 SUCH 1-DAY MEETINGS WERE CONDUCTED~~BECAUSE YOU CARED ENOUGH TO HELP!

PLEASE SEND A GENEROUS GIFT TODAY TO~~

CHURCH OF CHRIST INDIA MISSIONS

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INDIAN SPICE

Something I Won't Forget

On my first trip to India (1979), I was given the task of distributing Bibles to those who did not have one. This was in the city of Cuddapah in south Andhra Pradesh. I had a certain number of Bibles to give away, & I was handing them out in record time.

And then disaster struck. There were 2 more people who wanted & needed a Bible—& I had only 1 Bible left. What ensued was one of the most horrible scenes I have ever witnessed. And something I will never, ever forget.

One grabbed the Bible out of my hand & then the second person grabbed other end of the same Bible—& a tug of war began. I was sure they would tear that Bible in half. It was heart-breaking to see this & to know that only one would get a Bible.

Have you ever seen people "fight" in order to get a Bible? How many Bibles in your house do YOU have? How often do you use any of them? Do you take one to worship services? Here are people who are begging for a copy of God's Word & we can buy them in India for \$3 each.

I hope I never again witness the "Bible-grab" I saw in Cuddapah. The people of India—the most religious folks in the world—deserve to have a Bible so they can learn how God wants them to live their lives & how to have eternal life. Don't you think that is true? Your help in buying Bibles would be greatly appreciated!