



march 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

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4 THINGS

There are 4 things we count as very important—no, make that essential—to the success of our efforts in India. God has been very good to us in our attempts to do His work among the most religious people in the world. We have sought to do all according to the pattern of the New Testament, & to please God, giving Him all the honor, glory, praise & credit for anything we accomplish by His power & grace.

#1—Preaching the Gospel: The main purpose for any mission effort must be to teach others the Word of God. If evangelism is not the top priority for any mission work, then it is really not mission work! While there is much good done through building houses, medical assistance, etc.—if the end result is not to teach folks the Gospel, it is NOT mission work.

Reaching denominational preachers with the Truth, & thus being able to teach their congregations about the church of the New Testament is a productive way to reach lost souls. These are good people, who (in their own way) love the Lord & for the most part, are trying to do what is right. That does NOT mean that they are obeying God according to the Scriptures. If preachers of man-made groups can be led to the Lord's way, then usually the churches they serve will follow.

We have employed this tactic, this battle plan, in India for 40 years. In the process, we have witnessed nearly 41,000 denominational preachers leaving their “churches” & obeying the Gospel. A number of these men have died in that time period. Some of them have fallen away. But the bulk of those who have rendered obedience to God have remained faithful to the Lord & His church.

When a respected leader of a denominational group becomes a Christian (as in the New Testament), those who look up to him ask why he left their group. This presents us with a golden opportunity to teach these men—who often have good & honest hearts—about the church Jesus purchased with His own blood. Most of that number who obey will in turn teach their congregations. Then this process is repeated over & over again in this land where 1/6th of the world's population lives.

The power is in the Gospel! If you do not accept that premise, then all the teaching & preaching in the world is useless. God saves men through the foolishness of preaching (1 Cor. 1:18-25). Those who preach the Word of God are fools for God. Those who preach can only hope to be messenger boys. It is the Gospel that saves men from sin—& we must never forget that truth.

#2—Preacher-training: Denominational preachers who are converted to the New Testament pattern must be taught thoroughly. We believe in—and practice—that concept. We have schools of preaching under 2 umbrellas. Kate Cabe Memorial Bible Institute (KCMBI) is a school with more than 1,600 branches, meeting in 11 different states in 12 languages. These Bible training schools meet 1 day per week, for 2 to 4 hours each. They are taught by well-trained Indian preachers. This is an Indian work, just as we are seeking to make every aspect of our efforts in India to be.

Who attends these schools? Preachers who work with us. Members of local churches who have agreed to operate these KCMBI's. Women teachers for ladies' & children's classes who want better Bible knowledge. Denominational preachers & members who

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are interested in learning more about the Bible. Over a period of time, some of these men (especially those who continue to attend classes of KCMBI) will obey the Lord.

We also have a 2nd school, consisting of 4 different approaches to training men in the Bible. All 4 of these schools are called Carl Crosser Memorial Institute of Biblical Studies (CCMIBS). One branch we operate is an intense 2-year school in Nereducherla in the newly-formed Telangana state (formerly part of the state of Andhra Pradesh).

This program presents an in-depth study of important Biblical subjects. There are 30 students in each batch (1st & 2nd years). The curriculum is thorough & excellent. We have 7 teachers for this school—3 for each year & the director, Bro. A. Abraham, who works in both.

Two of our CCMIBS schools are 3 months' in duration—both are located in the state of Andhra Pradesh (one at Pangalur & the other at Markapur). These 2 branches of CCMIBS present a rigorous approach to a wide variety of Biblical subjects that are of great benefit to the students.

A third type of CCMIBS is mobile—teaching for 4 days a week, every week, in a different area of Guntur District (in Andhra Pradesh). Each week, 30 to 35 men attend these classes. This school deals with the basics of doctrinal matters, & is intended to assist our newly converted preachers who have recently left denominational groups.

In addition, a number of those who attend each week are still preachers in denominational groups. Every week, at least one of those men attending these classes obeys the Gospel. This then creates another opportunity to teach congregations of man-made churches to lead them to the New Testament way.

The 4th branch of CCMIBS is located in Hyderabad. It has a course of 2 days per week. Kyle is the teacher & this is a concerted effort to better train men in the Scriptures who live in the Hyderabad area.

#3—Benevolent work for Christians: This aspect of our work has been a source of great satisfaction, because we know we must show the love of Jesus in tangible ways.

One area of this effort is to provide sewing machines for preachers, the wives of preachers & Christian widows, especially those whose husbands were preachers of the Gospel. Part of this work includes training in tailoring for Christian women. These schools are named after Karen's mom, Lahoma Crosser, who was an excellent seamstress.

Another part of benevolent work is to provide medical help for needy Gospel preachers & their families. Most of the

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A LOOK AT INDIA

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preachers who work with us are extremely poor & they earn their daily bread as farmers, day laborers, etc.

Not many preachers are full-time. If they serve in a full-time capacity, they must depend upon poor church members to supply them with some financial aid. Those wives who do not work as day laborers, but have better-paying jobs, are able to support their families so that their husbands can serve full-time in the ministry.

Medical problems for those preachers who are extremely poor—especially those with very serious physical needs—put their families in a severe financial bind. We help as many of these brethren as we can.

Karen has a program to help young people from Christian families to attend college. Each year, we help many deserving young people in their studies, so they can get a good job. The goal is to break the cycle of poverty & dependency that too many Christian families face. College expenses in India are a fraction of the cost in the USA.

One area that is very important to us is to aid widows of preachers. When a preacher in a village builds a house, he often also constructs a building for his church. These congregations are usually made up of the poorest of the poor. These brethren give to erect their church building, but they seldom have sufficient funds to finish the construction.

The preacher then borrows money to finish construction of the church's meeting place. Both the church building & his house serve as collateral for the loan—which is in his name. If he should die before the loan is paid off, his widow is then responsible for repaying the debt owed.

The widow has no way in this world to pay off the debt. Without aid from others, she will lose her house & the church will lose its meeting place to the money lenders. In the past 5 years we have helped about 400 widows to keep their houses & save church buildings as well.

We also operate 2 medical clinics (one in the Hyderabad area & the other in Yerragondapalem in Prakasham Dist. of Andhra Pradesh). No patient pays for services rendered. Much good has been done through these clinics (named in the memory of my mother, Ellen Carthen).

When possible, we want to teach needy brethren how to fish instead of giving them a fish. This is particularly true by giving sewing machines so that those who receive them can help earn a living for themselves & their families.

There are other things we do in our benevolent programs. What has been mentioned here is simply a demonstration of our concern for the physical needs of our brethren.

(Continued at IN THE SPOTLIGHT)

KAREN'S KORNER

IT SEEMS THAT ALL MY LIFE—Well, at least for a large portion of my life, I have been on the go. I started my education in Ft. Worth, Texas, where I attended 1st through 3rd grade at Handley Elementary School. I only remember one of my teacher's names—Nikki Eddleman. What a great teacher she was!

From there we moved to Center, Texas where my dad began working for Curtis Mathes—a company which, at that time, built window fans. We were in Center until January 1, 1960 at which time I was a freshman in high school. It was a difficult time to make a move. I left good friends behind—Vicki Miceli, Geri Lou Buck & Peggy Wagstaff, among others.

I had already taken my first semester exams before the Christmas holidays. When I went to register for the 2nd semester of my freshman year, at Athens High School, it was assumed that I hadn't taken my mid-term exams. It wasn't easy, but I finally convinced the officials in the office that I had & that I didn't intend to take them again—for classes that I had not attended.

Everything was fine until I entered my junior year, when, for the first time in my life I had a teacher—actually 2 teachers—who didn't like me (& to be honest, I didn't like them either). One was Ms. Owens who taught government & the other was Mr. Rushing who taught science. Neither of those was my favorite subjects, but I kept my grades high enough

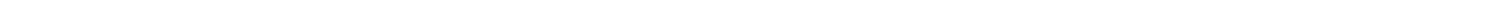
to graduate as salutatorian of my class. I finished my year only 2/10ths of one point behind the class valedictorian.

While in school, I took 4 years of Home Economics, which I absolutely loved. And I played first chair French horn every year that I was in the high-school band. I loved band. I enjoyed helping Mr. Shew in working out the programs for half-time at the football games. I loved the competition—both marching & playing. I studied piano while in Center, Texas but gave it up for band. I just couldn't handle both.

My English teacher allowed me to make any recitations (such as book reports or quoting poetry) in private. She had witnessed my throwing up in class when having to make such a book report. I got so terribly nervous & sick at my stomach that I could not speak before any crowds.

The school principal, Mr. Fluker, was more than a little concerned over my having to give the salutatory address in front of an auditorium of people, but I made it! Part of my speech was "Take a bucket & fill it with water..."

Thankfully, over the years I have overcome my sheer terror of public speaking & even though I still suffer from stage fright, I have been able to teach hundreds of ladies' Bible classes, children's Bible classes, as well as speak for a number of Ladies' Day programs both in India & in the USA. God is good! (**NOTE FROM RON**—And I can tell you that Karen is a **VERY good teacher!**)



TOP ROW: (L) Training preachers (M) A team of trained preachers (R) Church foundation & dedication stone at Tripuranthakam (Prakasham District in Andhra Pradesh) **BOTTOM ROW** (L) A Gospel meeting in a village by trusted Indian workers (ML) B.N. Jaipaul, one of our finest examples of a taught, trained & trusted preacher of God's Word (MR) A young lady being baptized following a Gospel meeting in her village (R) Bible class for a local group of preachers who work with our team

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

(Continued from A LOOK AT INDIA)

#4—The “4-T” Formula: In plain English: “Teach ‘em, Train ‘em, Trust ‘em, Turn ‘em loose!” This has been our motto for a long, long time, & we believe it works.

Teaching men to be preachers must be a priority of mission work if that work is to continue & expand. It matters little if souls obey the Gospel if there not men who have a sound grasp of the Bible & can teach it in a capable way.

Training men to preach goes far beyond teaching them the Bible. It means to show them how to apply the Word of God to their own lives & then to instill it in those who hear them preach. It means to demonstrate how to do the Lord’s work in a way that works.

It means to explain to them that they are expected to be men of honor, honesty & integrity. It means to show them what it means to be the right kind of example to their congregations.

Trusting these native workers is imperative. If we do not treat these men with respect that exhibits trust in them now—while we are working among them—how in the world can we expect them to be trustworthy when we leave?

I am convinced that if you treat others—whoever they may be—as if you don’t trust them, they will not let you down. They will react to your treatment of them in an undesirable way—it is almost guaranteed. We are encouraging these men to take roles not only doing the work, but to be leaders in various capacities.

Years ago, when Bro. Jack Exum went to India to help in leading denominational preachers to the Lord’s way. He told me something that demonstrates this. He said we were doing this work in the right way. He said he had never seen better delegation of authority by those Americans who went to another country or better acceptance of responsibility on the part of the natives.

Turn them loose! It is their country—their languages, their culture, their customs, their people—and it is their job to do. And it is our responsibility to prepare them for taking their responsibility.

The Lord’s work in any country must ultimately be turned over to native workers to succeed, to continue & to expand. We are doing so now, instead of waiting for some distant time.

Our work has been blessed largely because we have used this “4-T” formula. Please pray for our work the—and especially for our Indian brethren who do the overwhelming amount of our team’s work.

Newsletter by E-mail—To receive the India Newsletter by E-mail, contact us at IndiaNews@cocindia.net and we will be glad to add you to our mailing list. You will also receive our special monthly report (NAMASTE!), sent only by E-mail.

If your name, mailing address or E-mail address has changed, please contact our office at IndiaUSA@cocindia.net and tell us of any correction needed. If you are receiving more than one newsletter or are getting both the paper copy and the E-mail version, please inform us so we can correct our mailing list.

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INDIAN SPICE

Curry 'n' Spice

- ** In 1980, 65% of all highways in India were only 1-lane.
- ** From 2000 through 2010, India built 10 times as many roads as it had from Independence (1947) through 1999.
- ** In 2001, India started building roads that are held together using polymer glues made from shredded plastic waste. These “plastic” roads have developed no potholes & (nor) cracks after 15 years of use. As of 2016, there are more than 21,000 miles of “plastic roads” in India.
- ** The road building rate in India has accelerated in recent years. India’s road building averaged about 7.5 miles per day in 2014-15 & has grown to 17 miles per day in 2017-18. The country now has a target to build 25 miles of highways every day.

Our success in the Lord’s work in India is due to the grace of God & the power of the Gospel—and your gifts. We have worked hard & have trained many thousands of Indian preachers who are doing the overwhelming bulk of the work. We need your help to bring in the harvest. Please send a gift today to either address:

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