



april 2019

## INDIA MISSIONS

Under the oversight  
of the elders of  
Shiloh Church of Christ  
1520 W. Limestone Rd.  
PO Box 272  
Hazel Green, Alabama 35750

Office (205) 921-3737  
Line 2/Fax (205) 921-9003  
IndiaUSA@cocindia.net

## TEAM MEMBERS

Ron & Karen Clayton  
(205) 921-5043  
rcindia@sonet.net  
KarenUSA@sonet.net

Kyle Clayton

Robert Hall  
(256) 431-1175  
rhindia2@gmail.com

Ben Renegar  
(931) 625-2222  
BRIndia97@gmail.com

Jerry Edwards  
(270) 604-7154  
IndiaJLE@gmail.com

Jerris & Juanita Bullard  
Jerris2@aol.com

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

church of christ india missions

india ink

## WHAT INDIA MISSIONS HAS TAUGHT ME!

In local work in the USA there seems to be pressure to ignore fundamentals in favor of focusing on solving the immediate problems before us. As teachers & preachers we want (& need) to teach the whole counsel of GOD to interested people.

Problems arise when we assume people have understood & mastered the fundamentals of the Faith when in fact THEY HAVEN'T! So we explain secondary lessons from the BIBLE & then we are surprised when people don't "get it". People ask the same questions over & over when we have already answered them. The real reason for this is often a basic misunderstanding of one or more of the fundamentals of the BIBLE.

This is similar to starting with advanced calculus with a student who has not yet mastered simple addition & subtraction. It is also good to realize that, as people, we forget! I had calculus many, many years ago. You would be wrong if you assumed that I am proficient in calculus now. I would need a serious review of the subject. Likewise, folks need serious review of Bible fundamentals. They need it now & they need it often.

This challenge is met routinely in India because local congregations & individuals are so evangelistic. They are constantly covering basics as they seek to teach the lost. The serendipitous benefit of this is it also teaches the church the basics of the Faith again. Fundamentals are covered over & over to churches through Gospel meetings.

In the USA, where fewer people live & even fewer are interested in spiritual matters than India, evangelism is challenging in different ways. In India, our difficulty is in keeping up with all the opportunities! In the USA, the challenge is often in finding the opportunities—those who really want to learn GOD's Word. Perhaps this is the reason I personally see much less evangelism here than in India—and why there is less focus on fundamentals.

One could make the argument that there is a strong relationship between a weaker understanding of basics & a prevalent decline in membership. This may also have a causal influence on why many of our younger Christians fall away. Looking at India, we see phenomenal growth & we see a very, very high retention rate for those who are converted. For many years we have seen Indians remain faithful in attendance after conversion for at least 5 years at a rate of 75-80%. I have never observed a rate this high in any place where I have worked & or have visited here in the USA.

### **Fundamentals matter!**

Any Christian who forgets, loses their understanding of, or simply abandons the basic teachings of the Word of God is in serious trouble. We should definitely "go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, & of faith toward God, & of the doctrine of baptisms, & of laying on of hands, & of resurrection of the dead, & of eternal judgment" (Hebrews 6:1-2).

Often we "...have need that one teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; & are become such as have need of milk, & not of strong meat" (Hebrews 5:12).

—Jerry Edwards—

\*\*\*\*\*  
**IMPORTANT NOTE:** India has more widows than any nation on earth. Our largest benevolent work (in terms of funds spent) is to help Christian widows (whose husbands were preachers) to keep their houses & their congregations from losing their meeting places. Loans made by their husbands for both church buildings & houses become the widows' responsibility when these preachers die. So far this year, we have helped 13 widows in this manner—all on the high end of the spectrum (in terms of amounts needed to pay off their debts). We have spent all special funds given for this project & more—a total of \$100,000. We have other such widows we want to help, but additional funds are needed. Please pray for these women—and if you can help, please do so.

## india notes

### HISTORY OF OUR CHILDREN'S HOMES IN INDIA

We began helping children—those who were orphans or whose parents simply could not provide for them—in the 1980's. We started a children's home in Hyderabad & it originally provided help for about 50 kids.

In 2000, the director of that home (one of the prominent preachers on our team) decided to do his own work. We helped with the home even after he left us, but too many problems arose & we discontinued our help for that home.

We started a home in Markapur in 1992. About this same time, we began another home in Thubadu (see below). All these homes were called Harvey Cabe Memorial Children's Home in honor of my grandfather. We began in a rented facility in Markapur, but after 3 years or so were asked to relocate. The folks who owned the facility needed it for their own use.

We began in earnest to buy land & to build a home for the children—one big dorm for the girls & another for the boys. We had about 35 children in this home. The home was moved 7 km from Markapur to Rayavaram (a village). That home is still in operation, but under much different circumstances that will be explained later in this article.

A 3rd home was opened in 2005 in Chirala after the tsunami that hit India (& much of that part of the world) the day after Christmas in 2004. We began with 35 kids, & used rented property for them. The agreement was this home was only for children whose parents died in the tsunami & no new children would be added to the home.

The plans were when all the children either graduated from school or married, we would close the home. We have now reached the end of that commitment. We have agreed to pay for 5 of the girls to complete their college education. All others have either married, have jobs or have received government assistance to attend college.

The 4th home was one of the earliest we operated. It was in a village (Thubadu) in Guntur District. This home was originally operated in a house (for 14 boys) owned by the family who wanted to continue what the father (T. Charles) had begun. We built a facility for living quarters for the children & for a preacher-training school.

To make a long story short, over period of years we added more boys to the home. But we had increasing problems with family members who were in charge of operating this facility, especially the "house mother". When the number of boys dropped to 5, & the problems persisted, we really had no choice except to close this facility.

One reason—we could not control the activities of the home there, even though we were paying all the bills for it to stay in operation. This was not a happy time for us—it meant the preacher-training school also had to be closed.

(Continued at A LOOK AT INDIA)

## A LOOK AT INDIA

(Continued from INDIA NOTES)

Today, the government of India has made the operation of children's homes by any "Christian" organization extremely difficult. One brother who does much of this type of work in India has spoken about the frustrations of providing help for children's homes in India. The home he operates has already met all government requirements. Now, he says the demands are absolutely ridiculous. The kind of scrutiny now requires to account for almost every grain of rice they use.

This is nothing less than harassment by the government of India directed toward any "Christian" organization operating such homes. Why? Because the Indian government is very pro-Hindu & as such is very anti-Christian. Please pray that elections in India this year will bring about changes that will be beneficial for Christians.

The instigation for these difficulties were caused by major problems with a children's home operated by our brethren in Bangalore several years ago. Serious charges (some of which were false) were leveled & so the home was closed. There was a genuine possibility that the Indian government would seize that very valuable & costly property—& then hand it over to Hindus. Thankfully, that did not happen.

But what has resulted is a very close monitoring of all such homes operated by "Christian" groups. We moved our home in Rayavaram to another location to avoid the possible loss of very valuable property. This home has some kids at the new location. Most of the children at the home in Rayavaram are in college & live in college dorms on those campuses. The home at Rayavaram will be closed when all the kids have finished their education.

To protect properties that have cost a great deal of money & to protect our investments, we established a charitable trust (since no foreigner can register fixed property in his name). That charitable trust is no longer operational.

All such properties are now in the name of societies or trusts operated by our Indian brethren. This means all church (or other) properties belong to local congregations or have been put under the control of our Indian brethren. This has been the situation for several years now.

\*\*\*\*\*

In our past & current newsletters, we have sought to better inform those who help our work of the different ministries in which we are involved. It is because of your financial help that we can do what we are in India. We need your valuable prayers & financial assistance to continue in these programs. Please send a gift today—as generous as possible—to "Church of Christ India Missions" to either address—

CHURCH OF CHRIST INDIA MISSIONS

P. O. Box 1448  
Hamilton, Alabama 35570

—OR—

P. O. Box 272  
Hazel Green, Alabama 35750

# KAREN'S KORNER

MY RECENT ARTICLE ON SWEETIE'S SEWING CENTER has brought unbelievable response. After just a few days the financial needs have been met. It didn't take long—opening one envelope after another & seeing checks with comments regarding Sweetie's Sewing Center brought tears to my eyes. I have shed many happy tears this week!

There is no way that I can thank all those of you who came to my rescue, so to speak. As I write to report this & to thank those who have been so generous in giving to help with this project, tears continue to well in my eyes. Why did I ever think that I would have trouble raising the funds for this great opportunity? Actually, I never doubted. I just never thought how wonderful your response would be!

As I write this article, the requirements for this school have been met—we have enough funds left to start at least one other tailoring school—and probably two. I believe this is good stewardship & aids us in a great opportunity. This will enable many more sisters in learning a trade that will help them to earn a living for themselves & their families.

There are 2 other places where we have perfect facilities for tailoring schools, but there were no funds available. But since we have had such an amazing response to my "emergency call", we have enough money to begin 2 more tailoring schools. I hope this is what all those who were so generous in giving to this great need would want me to do. All I can say is "Thank you! Thank you!" Each of you certainly made me cry tears of joy because you have cared!

NOW FOR SOME OTHER REALLY GOOD NEWS! First, one of our secretaries, Denise Brewer, was baptized into Christ on January 27th in Fulton, Mississippi. Denise's family lives there & she had studied with me & Ron. Ron spoke at the Fulton church that night, & this was a wonderful bonus to our visit with that congregation. Denise has a serious heart condition & will probably need surgery soon. Please pray for her.

2nd—Our office manager & head secretary, Candice Hicks, recently gave birth to her 2nd child, to add to our Doodlebug, (Henley—5 yrs old) who is one of the most precious little girls ever. Candice & baby (Jonah Allen) are doing great (& so is hubby Chris)! We are very happy for Candice & her family.

3rd & 4th—Once there was great concern over Ron's family tree—he was the only branch! Ron has 3 sisters & no brothers. The Clayton name from this branch of the Clayton family tree could easily have ended with Ron. God blessed us with 3 sons—Jeff, Greg & Kyle. Jeff has 2 sons—Page & Brendon. Greg has 2 sons, Sammy & Grant, (& our only fully American granddaughter, Madelyn). Kyle has 2 daughters, Sunshine & Præethi, & one son, Jordan.

But now we are proud to announce the arrival of another generation of Clayton boys! We are the very happy (& very proud) great-grandparents of the newest additions to the Clayton family tree. Page & Mary Beth are the proud parents of Bo Joseph, born November 19th, & whose adoption was finalized April 2nd. Sammy & Kasey are the proud parents of Silas Samuel, born March 29th. The Clayton tree is smiling!



**LEFT:** Sammy & Kasey with Silas Samuel Clayton **TOP (L & R):** Bo Joseph Clayton **RIGHT:** Page & Mary Beth with Bo (born Nov. 19th last year). Bo was adopted & is such a welcome addition to our family! **BOTTOM:** (L) Silas Samuel (born March 25th). These 2 wonderful Clayton boys are our first great-grandsons! (R) Jonah Allen, the son of Candice & Chris Hicks (their 2nd child & was born January 16th), with his big sister, Henley (AKA "Doodlebug")

April 2019



# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

## TJ's Note

This note is from TJ Manikya Rao, who directs our Mobile CCMIBS branch in Thubadu in Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh.

The point I want to make here is that we do NOT always meet with success in our attempts to reach denominational people (including their preachers). However, the seed (the Word of God) has been planted in the hearts of some of those who were present at this meeting & hopefully will obey the Lord some day.

Please pray for the success of the preaching & teaching in India. The preachers who work with us—more than 53,000 of them—are the reason that we are reaching millions of perishing souls. The power of God is in His Gospel. It must be preached for precious souls to be brought to the feet of the Master.

\*\*\*\*\*

“Sir, greetings in the name of the Lord.

“I recently attended a denominational meeting in the city of Vijayawada. The name of that denomination is ‘Holy Bride International Ministries’. This meeting was arranged by Bro. NV Dass’ friend—Bro. Dass has invited me with his friend’s permission.

“Sir, I had a wonderful opportunity to proclaim the Word of God in the midst of about 500 denominational people. A few foreigners were also there. I think they were from Korea.

“Brother, my message was with fire. My main subject of the message is ‘Truth’. Many of these denominational pastors appreciated what I had to say. However, the man presiding over the meeting finally said, ‘We will not invite you again’. I told him I will pray for another invitation.”

\*\*\*\*\*

Each month we send out at least 100 Indian team leaders who take coworkers with them in different areas. They have opportunities to preach to their own people. Those they work with are their key men, who in turn have their “team captains”—& so on.

They choose where they want to work—places where they have contacts & opportunities to teach the Word of God. With that many team leaders, can you imagine how many workers are involved in our overall efforts? HUNDREDS!

Most Gospel meetings in villages can be conducted for about 100 rupees each (less than \$1.50). In January, our team conducted more than 36,000 (1-day) meetings; in February, the number of (1-day) Gospel meetings was in excess of 48,000.

The key to this large number of Gospel meetings is in the number of those working on our team. Each month, our team is teaching well over 1 million souls. In each of the past 3 years, we have invested more than \$1 million for the spreading of the Word to increase the borders of God’s kingdom. Your gifts have made this possible!

Newsletter by E-mail—To receive the India Newsletter by E-mail, contact us at [IndiaNews@cocindia.net](mailto: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](mailto: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.

CHURCH OF CHRIST  
INDIA MISSIONS  
P.O. BOX 1448  
HAMILTON, AL 35570

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
DECATUR, AL  
PERMIT # 789

## INDIAN SPICE

### Did You Know?

What did these actresses have in common? They were all born in India. The list includes Merle Oberon (“Wuthering Heights”), Vivien Leigh (“Gone With the Wind”), Julie Christie (“Dr. Zhivago”). Those who were not such big-name stars included Joanna Lumley (in a James Bond movie) & Juliet Prowse (in “GI Blues” with Elvis Presley).

Why did so many European countries send ships to India starting in the 1490’s? SPICES—at least 68 different types; & SILK to a lesser degree. Maritime trade was usually safer & faster than taking overland routes, & also avoided taxes, customs duties & robbers that were associated with traveling by land.

A number of words in our English vocabulary today came from India, mostly due to British rule in India for 347 years (1600—1947). There are many such words, but some of those more commonly used today are verandah, bungalow, shampoo, jungle, cot, juggernaut, bangle, pajamas & loot.

India today has the world’s 2nd-largest population—1 billion, 374 million souls. In 1951, India’s population was 379,278,124. India is now on target to surpass China as the most populated country in the world as early as 2022—a few years ago, the estimate was thought to be in 2035.

**PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TODAY—& PUT OUR WORK IN YOUR WILL**