



OUTREACH

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Magazine Statement

“To inform our readers and create an interest in missions and impact them to get involved in IEM’s missionary work and mission in general.”

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Theme for 2010

Suffering for the Gospel

2 Timothy 1:8

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General Secretary's thoughts

Our dear committed Prayer Partners,

*“Shame, shame, Gospel shame,
You preach Good News - they know your name!”*

This is a modified poem we used to sing when we were in school. Every believer has to go through persecution at some time or in some form or other.

Nirmala, a missionary, was affected by a strange skin disease, when she was in the mission field. People looked at her and cruelly asked, “Why did your God not heal you?” As long as she was in the mission field, she went through insult and shame. Yet she kept affirming that Jesus is the only Savior of the World.

Someone met our missionary, Dr D Devaganavaram and saw him confined to the wheelchair. They commented, “you have not prayed enough and that’s why God has not healed you.” How should a child of God respond to these taunts? How can he or she handle such shameful situations?

When Christians go through persecution for the sake of the Gospel, the natural question arises, “Is the God that the Christians worship powerless?” This challenge might lead to shameful situations for the sake of the Gospel.

As Christians we need to go through suffering in different ways. It is not just physical torture alone but harassment, insult, deprivation of privileges and so on. We might be pushed into a situation where we will not be able to stand tall, as we go through humiliation. We might be tormented by the thought of giving up because suffering and shame is unbearable.

One line of a well-known song goes like this, “He is the Lord and He reigns on high, He is the LORD. Show your power, Send your power.” This may be our song and prayer. However, when God does not demonstrate His power and majesty as we expect, are we not ashamed?

Paul admonishes Timothy, “So do not be **ashamed** to testify about our Lord, or **ashamed** of me his prisoner.”(2 Timothy 1:8) Why is he emphasizing this fact? Here are 4 reasons.





The Gospel always built communities and nations down through the centuries. There was a holistic transformation of people's lives.



1. A Christian need not be ashamed because the Gospel is the ultimate authority. The Good News of Jesus Christ has incomparable power. Moreover this power is given to the ordinary people like us to appropriate and exercise. Therefore, "I am not **ashamed** of the gospel, because it is **the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes**: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile." (Romans 1:16)

2. A Christian need not be ashamed because the Gospel

provokes supreme priority. Building others is our priority. The Gospel always built communities and nations down through the centuries. There was a holistic transformation of people's lives. Believers are called and motivated to build others and keep this as their supreme priority. "For even if I boast somewhat freely about the authority the Lord **gave us for building you up** rather than pulling you down, I will not be **ashamed** of it. (2 Corinthians 10:8)

3. A Christian need not be ashamed because the Gospel gives a distinctive identity. Everybody lost the identity given by God during creation. The coming of our Lord Jesus Christ gave us back the same name and identity which God intended us to have. My fame takes a back seat when I am given the distinctive name, "Christian." Therefore, I will not be ashamed. "However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be **ashamed**, but praise God that you bear that name." (1 Peter 4:16)

4. A Christian need not be ashamed because the Gospel grants unique credibility. Once I was far from the God, now I have been brought near to God. I have a unique **position as I stand to confess Jesus as my Lord**. When I exalt my savior, He promised that He will not disown in the presence of God. "If anyone is **ashamed** of me and my words, the Son of Man will be **ashamed** of him when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels." (Luke 9:26) Therefore, I will not be ashamed.

Selvakumar was deprived of his rightful promotion in his office because he was a Christian. Everyone knew of his commitment to God because he witnessed even to his CEO. At the verge of his retirement, he pledged to contribute financially and otherwise toward a church construction in an IEM mission field in spite of having lost a huge

“When Christians go through persecution for the sake of the Gospel, the natural question arises, “Is the God that the Christians worship powerless?”

there and said, “‘they intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.’ (Genesis 50:20) Later, the Union Pay Commission revised salaries and passed an order to pay all the benefits even to retired people. Today I realize that I did not lose anything. I would have lost the blessing if I had not fulfilled the pledge I made to the Lord.”

amount of his retirement benefits. However, he just committed this problem to the Lord and started the construction in the power of God. When the building was completed, he stood me, but God now being done, the

O Christian! Be not surprised. This is part of being a disciple of Jesus Christ. To check whether we are not ashamed to suffer, we need to ask ourselves these questions, “Am I ashamed to reveal my identity in Christ? Am I proud to project myself as a child of God? Am I ashamed to belong to a minority community? Am I ashamed when I am not able to project my God powerfully through signs and wonders? Am I ashamed when I am not able to convince others that Gospel is the power of God for salvation? Let us pledge to suffer for the sake of the Gospel in the power of God. We need young and old people who are not ashamed of being called Christians and are bold to face the World.

The ministry among the Ho people in Orissa exemplifies suffering for the Lord. Our evangelists are standing in the midst of challenges, and are zealous for the Lord. This is our focus in the April issue.

We have begun another financial year. Our prayer is that He will enable us to lead thousands of souls to Jesus and establish hundreds of churches this year. Please pray that 250WG by 2011 will be a reality.

We celebrate Easter in this month so here's one last thought, “The guards who were watching over the tomb sealed by the Roman government were the only eyewitnesses to Jesus' resurrection. (Matthew 28: 11-15) Yet, since they were ashamed of the truth, they lost the blessing of the Easter. Will we be like those guards or are we willing to go through shame of suffering for sake of the Gospel?”

Mercy and I wish you a wonderful season as we remember the suffering, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Yours in His joyful ministry,

Rev P John Wesley

Fruitful At last

Names can mislead. I remember reading a humorous, yet meaningful story in school where the writer walks down a street and sees a blind girl. To his amazement, he found that the meaning of her name was “beautiful eyes” Walking further he saw a hearse. The name of the dead man meant, “one who conquered death.” At the end of the day, he concluded that names and characters do not match. The name “Mayurbhanj” means the “abode of peacocks”, and true to its name, this district in Orissa has a large number of these beautiful birds strutting around the gentle slopes, adding colour and life to the region. But peacocks do not need a Saviour, people do! So when IEM missionaries set foot on this lovely land, their mission was to lead people to the Saviour. Among other people groups, they decided to reach the HO people. It's been a long and arduous journey for them but praise God, they persevered!

Now the HO church elders lead their own people because missionaries are not allowed to live among the people. It is exciting to see how the time and energy investment in these people is proving fruitful. The purposefulness with which they tread the path of suffering for the sake of the Gospel is truly uplifting. We have a hostel for girls in Rairangpur. Some of their testimonies are recorded here for the glory of God. They are the future pillars of the HO Church. The New Testament is being translated into the HO language. Our missionary Bible translators John Mathai & Elizabeth are on the job and God willing, the task will be completed in His perfect time and the HO people will be able to hear God speaking through His Word in their own heart language. Evangelical Missionary Society of Mayurbhanj (EMSM) and IEM are partners together in the Gospel. We praise God for people like Graham Staines who laid down his life for the Santhali people.

Travel may be high on the agenda for many this summer. Why not try out something different. The Youth Page talks about a tour with a difference.

Church buildings are landmarks on the mission fields. They testify about the presence of Christians in the region. This month, we feature reports on the dedication of 2 church buildings – one in Andhra Pradesh and another in Tamil Nadu. We hope you will be challenged and encouraged to participate in God's grand agenda for our beloved India.

Watch out for Prayer Digest 2010 next month. It doubles as reference manual of IEM as well as a prayer guide. Till then, let's uphold each other in prayer, shall we?

Timothy Austin





Comfort in the Midst of Suffering

(Nobody likes suffering! However, every believer has to pass through the “valley” experience to get to the mount of glory. **Rev. Dr. Kulothungan**, the Founder General Secretary of Maharashtra Village Ministries(MVM) helps us understand the need to suffer, the purpose of suffering, the degree of suffering and eventually, the glory and blessings of suffering.)

Corinth – That Great City

Corinth is a major city in Greece, on the isthmus between the Ionian Sea and the Aegean Sea. In New Testament times, it was perhaps the most celebrated city of the Roman Empire, second only to Rome. Corinth was a leading commercial centre for trade, agriculture and industry. It hosted several athletic events, gladiatorial contests, theatre productions and the isthmian games. This city was also home to major pagan religions. The temple of Apollo with its 38 doric columns, each 24 feet high was here. The temple of Aphrodite, goddess of love, employed at least 1000 temple prostitutes. Corinth had a widespread reputation for gross immorality.

The city’s mega church had several excellent teachers, leaders, philosophers and theologians. Yet it struggled with the same problems that many mega churches face today. The Corinthian church too was made up of sinners saved by grace.

Suffering as a Disciple of Christ

The central theme of Paul’s letter to the Corinthian church echoes, “There is no instant spirituality. Discipleship is a process.”

As an ambassador of Christ and an anointed apostle to the gentiles, Paul experienced great suffering, persecution and opposition in his ministry. He even struggled with a personal weakness– a thorn in the flesh. Yet Paul affirmed God’s faithfulness. His strength was sufficient for any trial. When trials come, they keep us from becoming proud and teach us to depend on God for everything. He comforts us so that we can comfort others who are in trouble. Our faithful service to God will doubtless result in triumph.

“For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction which came *to us* in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life; indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead; who delivered us from so great a *peril of death*, and will deliver *us*, He on whom we have set our hope. And He will yet deliver us, you also joining in helping us through your prayers, so that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the favor bestowed on us through *the prayers of many.*” (2 Corinthians 1:8-11)

The Degree of Suffering

(2 Corinthians 1:8)

“For we do not want you to be unaware (without a mind, ignorant), brethren (still saints), of our affliction (tribulation) which came to us in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life...”

In my journey of faith, I have learnt the undeniable truth that every Great Commission mandated, dynamic disciple, who surrendered their lives to God to take the Good News to the unreached, must face some degree of suffering in their lives.

For some suffering has cultural or personal health links; for others it family-spouse and children or elderly parents. Some find co-workers, new believers, or even the leadership of their organisations as their source of suffering. At this juncture, we need to understand the degree of understanding. Perceptions need to be considered, keeping personal goals in mind.

The Purpose For Suffering

(2 Corinthians 1:9)

“Indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead; whether it is in our Body or mind and soul or in the situation where ever we are placed there is a purpose in suffering.”

Suffering is not from God; it is allowed or permitted by Him for a purpose. When any one partakes in

suffering for the sake of Christ and for His glory, there is a great sense of direction in life because it is guided by the Lord.

The Glory of Suffering

(2 Corinthians 1:10)

“...who delivered us rescued us from danger (snatched out of the lion’s den) from so great a *peril of death*, and will deliver us.”(He on whom we have set our hope with lasting results)

He will yet deliver us. Enduring the cross leads us to the crown of righteousness and splendour of glory. The sustaining grace of Christ is abundantly available to those who put their undivided trust and confidence in Him. The ultimate aim of a yielded life is to endure trials and suffering, keeping in mind the promised eternal hope.

The Blessings of Suffering

(2 Corinthians 1:11)

“..you also joining in helping us through your prayers (intercessory petitions), so that thanks may be given (to recognize the goodness of grace) by many persons on our behalf for the favor (CHARISMA = grace gift) bestowed on us through *the prayers of many*.

Even though Paul faced many trials during His missionary journey of faith, he does not give details about the hardships. The record of his hardships and suffering for the Gospel during his missionary journeys are recorded in Acts 13:2–14:28, Acts 15:40–21:17. His exhortation is simply to rely on God in all circumstances.



The Ministry Must Go On

The Ho mission field is situated in Mayurbhanj district, Orissa, bordering the state of Bihar.

Its populace comprise tribals like Ho, Munda, Santhals and Bathuli apart from Bengalis, Marwaris, Biharis, Punjabis and a few Muslims.

The tribals are animists. They collect forest products and cultivation and hunt to make a living. Fifty percent of them live in huts in scattered villages. The Ho people enjoy drinking and dancing on all occasions. The village priest deals with religious activities in the village.

There are a little over 15, 00,000 Ho people making it the second largest tribal group in Orissa. The Ho tribe is divided into about 120 clans, most of whom are located in Singhbhum district, Bihar and Mayrubhanj District, Orissa. The Ho language belongs to the Munda Language group. Roman

Catholic missionaries working here have translated the New Testament into the Ho language but this needs to be corrected.

IEM began ministering in 1986. Our missionaries were involved in evangelism, discipling, Bible translation, literacy, hostels and leadership development. Persecution began in the year 1988. Believers were harassed and may have lost their lands and possessions. Sometimes, even missionaries were attacked. After the death of Mr Graham Staines and his sons, the missionary team have not been able to be actively involved in the ministry. There are nearly 300 believers and 8 worship Groups.

The Bible Translation work in Ho language is being carried on by our missionaries John & Elizabeth Mathai.

Name of the Missionaries

Pradeep Kumar Das & Sankhipta, John & Elizabeth Mathai, Premlatha Das, Shyamala Rani



*(God may bury His missionaries but not His ministry. A decade after the shocking passing away of brother Graham Staines, the good work he began continues, thanks to strong partnership between the EMSM and IEM. Under the leadership of our missionary, **Pradeep Kumar Das & Sankhipta**, churches here are being nurtured in spite of trying circumstances. We praise God for what He has done and continues to do in the 30 Santhal churches in this region. Pradeep traces the history of the work here and continues to shares his vision for the future ministry in this potential part of our land.)*

Early Beginnings

Beginning with an understanding between Rev Dr Theodore Williams and Mr Graham Staines, IEM began ministering to the Ho people in Mayurbhanj district of Orissa from October 3, 1986. This led to a mutual partnership between IEM and the Evangelical Missionary Society of Mayurbhanj(EMSM) which continues till this day. EMSM has an extensive ministry among the Santhali people in this region.

With the passing away of Graham Staines, the Evangelical Missionary Society of Mayurbhanj (EMSM) was in a crucial situation. His wife Gladys was concerned about the future of EMSM's ministry among the Santals, in the midst of a lot of disturbing circumstances. The believers were discouraged and needed pastoral care. Many of them backslid and resorted to evil practices. Proper Bible-based teaching was missing. Her earnest prayer was to take the ministry

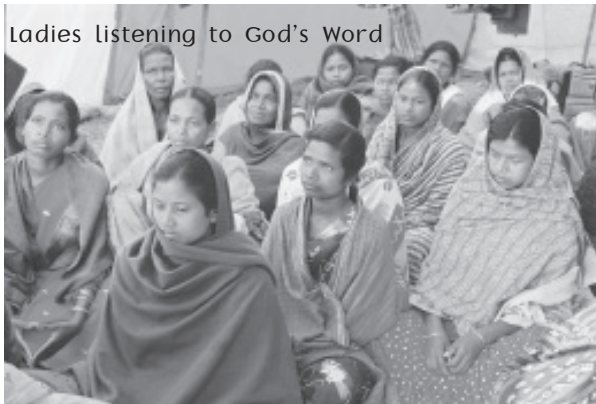


forward and lead the established churches in right direction.

It was at this time, the IEM leadership seconded me to move in to help in this ministry at the invitation of Mrs Gladys Staines. So my family moved to Baripada June 6, 2006.

OUR INITIAL TASK was develop local pastors, leaders and volunteers. Illiteracy and aging believers made this task difficult. Since this was a "self-supporting" ministry, educated people were not very cooperative and preferred greener pastures. There were 30 worship groups in interior places

Ladies listening to God's Word



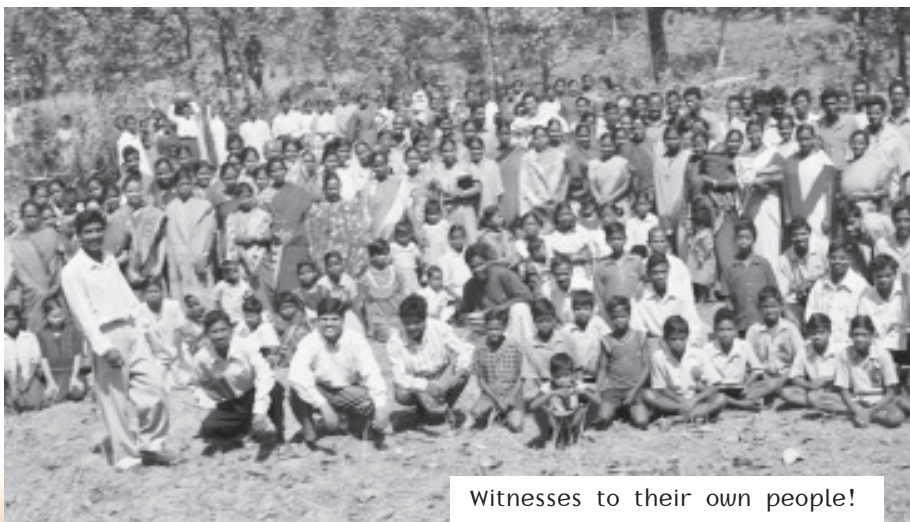
and quite inaccessible even by motorcycle. Still, we began by imparting sound Bible teaching to the believers. We conducted jungle camps annually in 6 places, ladies' meetings in 2 places and local church gatherings in 3 places. We also had quarterly Bible teaching programmes for leaders, pastors and laymen, youth meetings in 2 places, Vacation Bible schools, family retreats, cottage meetings for families who are working in the mission, weekly Bible studies for hospital staff as well as Mission staff, Sunday school, sport

and games for leprosy affected inmates and so on.

Besides these programmes, we regularly visited believers in different churches and preached at Sunday worship services in different fellowships. In the Graham Staines Memorial Hospital, we ministered to patients.

In the Philip Timothy Boys' hostel we nurtured children. We had a special English Worship service for the hospital staff coming from outside Orissa.

We praise God that in spite of non-acceptance, negative attitudes and rejection, God is blessing the ministry of EMSM. We praise that God for supplying our needs and pray that the churches will own the ministry and work together with one mind, heart and purpose. Please uphold us in prayer as we serve Him faithfully and sincerely.



Witnesses to their own people!

God's Wonder-filled Work!



*(It was a crucible of suffering for both missionaries during the early days of our ministry in Mayurbhanj, Orissa among the HO people. Rising from the ashes as it were, our missionary warden **Ms Premlatha Das**, chronicles how God lifted the lid over the victims of hate and hopelessness and made them victors. Watch how her heart swells with pride when she talks about “her hostel girls” and then she talks of evangelists who literally shepherd believers in the absence of missionaries. Truly, God’s work, done in God’s way will never lack God’s supply! Read on...)*

Our God is a wonderful God and marvellous in His acts. He gives us His immense grace to be in His wonderful, holy ministry. Through the years we can say that He is good and perfect in His work.

In 1994, God enabled us to begin the Jeevan Jyothi Niwas hostel in the year 1994 amid conflicting circumstances. On the one hand, there was a strong urge to stop the work here while on the other, educated believers and their children were gradually becoming pillars of the Ho church. In 1993, there were no educated women in the churches; today, there are promising educated children in most churches.

Jeevan Jyothi Niwas For Girls

The children in our hostel have become channels of change, not only in their parents’ lives but also in society. For example, when our hostel girls go home during vacation, the village-folk are



Children at a jungle camp

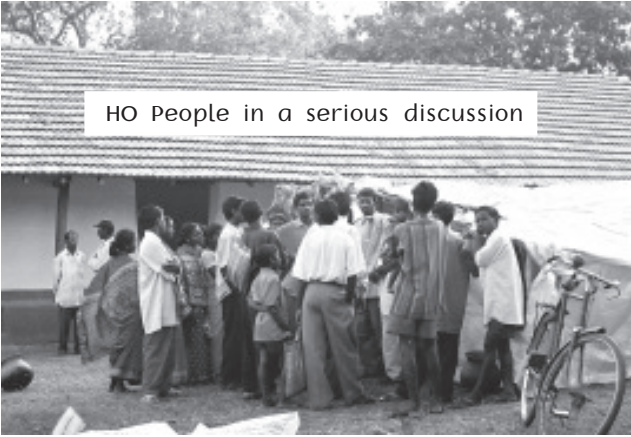
impressed by their lifestyle, talk and attitude. In fact, 3 families from another religion appreciated the distinct difference between the way our children behave and the behaviour of others.

“Would you please accept our children as well? We will bear all the expenses. Please allow them to stay in the hostel and learn from your teaching,” they plead. Sadly, limited space prevents me from acceding to their request.

Terrific Testimonies

An Exemplary Life

Sunita, one of our girls from Dakeipal village wrote her 10



HO People in a serious discussion

She herself prayed a simple prayer in Jesus' name. Then she assured her friends that nobody need fear ghosts. Such strong faith!

The living God is making His children shine in the midst of darkness, not only in academics but in other fields as well. All glory and honour be of our God and Lord Jesus

standard school-leaving exam and excelled, while many from her own village could not succeed. She received many awards for various achievements. Now she is pursuing higher studies in science in Bhubaneswar and is leading an exemplary life among her classmates.

A Missionary Nurse in the Making

Sarathy Kayam secured a first rank in the public exams – she was the only one to do this in her village and in her church. Sarathy's parents gratefully report that she's doing her nurse's training aiming to serve the Lord. Now many parents want to educate their girls instead of sending them to work.

Fruitful Faith

Sangita Birve shared the Gospel with her friend Lakshmi who gradually began to read the Bible, other booklets and even pray. Four tuition children including her used to spend many nights fearing the shadow of a ghost. One boy challenged them to sprinkle water in the name of a god so that the ghost will flee in fear. Lakshmi asked their tuition sir to pray.

Christ.

They Said It!

Mary Soren (Std 6) "I am happy in the Jeevan Jyothi Niwas. I thank God for choosing me among many to live here, learn about Him and study. Both my parents have died, yet I know that my Jesus is my father, mother, and my brother. My mother taught us to pray before we buy anything. She told me to love Jesus because He gave died for us on the Cross. I am learning this in the hostel as well. I have one sister and 2 brothers who are staying in another hostel. Though my parents left me, the Lord Jesus is taking care of me. I am happy here. Pray that I will be a good student and that when I grow up, I will serve the Lord as a missionary."

Gouri Badara (Std 7) "I come from Thakurmunda village and have been in the hostel from standard one. My father passed away when I was younger. We came to know Jesus when my mother was very sick. My uncle Sadhu Charan Dodora brought me to the hostel. At first I had no

Continue on Page 21

Praise and Prayer Calendar

*(The heat is in on our country. Between sunshine and showers, our Lord God motivates our missionaries to keep on keeping on. Programmes conducted during Good Friday and Easter will be followed up throughout April. Believers are constantly challenged to pass on the Good News to their kith and kin. When hostel children return home for their holidays, they will have a lot of explaining to do with their friends and family after they notice the difference in their words and deeds. Needless to say, all this activity needs your active participation in prayer. We count on you to pray us through **April!**)*

1 Kullu, Himachal Pradesh

Praise God

For the 43 years of fruitful ministry in Kullu Valley and for the each one who made a significant contribution to the work here

For helping our missionaries to labour among the Lahauli people for 14 years

Pray

That Worship Groups will be established among Lahauli people in Lahaul Valley

That Lalman, who joined the Lahaul team will adjust to the new situation and learn the language quickly

2 Dharamsala, Himachal Pradesh

Praise God

That our missionaries will be able to master the Tibetan language as they study under a lama. This is a regular language course

For enabling new missionary Wilumbo Zeilang to join the join the team

Pray

That our missionaries will be able to find a house in a Tibetan colony

That our missionaries will enjoy good health

Good Friday HE DIED IN MY PLACE

Praise God for His love, His mercy, His grace, His peace and His joy which is made available to us because of the vicarious death of our Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross of Calvary

Pray that as the message of the Gospel is sounded out loud and clear in our mission fields, seekers will respond to the love of Christ for them

3 The General Secretary

Praise God

For the Lord's protection as he traveled extensively in spite of a weak back

For those who responded to the ministry of the Word on various occasions

Pray

That as He travels in the United States meeting with prayer partners through Friends of IEM USA the Lord would use him for His glory

For Rev & Mrs John Wesley as they participate in the *Faith2Share*



International Consultation at Recife, Brazil from April 11-19, 2010

That their sons Charles, Santhosh and Jonathan will walk in the ways of the Lord, please only Him and be protected during the absence of their parents

4 Church Ministries, Kerala

Praise God

For the 50 new readers who were added to our mailing list during the past few months

For the opportunities to promote the work of IEM through our book stalls at Maramon and CSI Conventions at Maramon and Kottayam respectively

For enabling our State Secretary to teach the missionaries of the Kottayam diocese of the Marthoma Church during January, 2010

Pray

For Shine Varghese & Bindu who were appointed as full time Associates in Trivandrum

For Prasad Alex & Animol who being trained at OTI for future ministry in Kerala

That the supporters' meeting in April at Trivandrum

Easter – HE IS RISEN INDEED!

May our Lord Jesus who conquered sin and death, continue to keep us focussed on Him, fastened to His love and fervent in our work for Him

5 Bathinda, Punjab

Praise God

That after 3 years of waiting on the Lord, the Mission was able to purchase a land in Lehra Mohabaat on March 4, 2010

That community development projects like medical work, tailoring and literacy as well as tuitions for children are being carried out by our missionaries

Pray

That new Worship Groups will be established in this mission field by the end of 2010

That our missionaries will be kept in good health during the hot summer months

6 Dehra Dun, Uttarachal

Praise God

That a temporary Worship shed was constructed in Chandmari village on February 25, 2010

That a 2-wheeler was purchased for our missionary R Wilson on March 15, 2010 after a long wait

For the tailoring classes conducted by our missionaries in Jamunwala. Two machines were donated by our supporters

That Gorkhali New Testaments were distributed and well received

Pray

That our missionaries Basheer Sheikh & Annamma will be able to find a house in Lachhiwala

That the land identified for the construction of a church building will be purchased soon

That believers Sathish and Miss Sonia will openly confess their faith in the Lord in the Indira nagar area

7 Field Ministries, New Delhi

Praise God

For the provision of a good house in New Delhi and helping our



missionaries' daughter to write her Board exams

Pray

For abundant grace and wisdom to coordinate the ministry in North and North East India

For Rev. Dinesh Patel as he mentors Zonal Field Secretaries, missionaries and local leaders

8 Balrampur, Uttar Pradesh

Praise God

For the fresh openings for ministry in many villages in Ramgarhwa block region

For the fruitful partnership with EHA's Duncan Hospital

For His protection over our missionaries as they travelled on rough village roads

Pray

That the people who hear the Gospel will turn to the Lord

That our missionaries' plans to conduct literacy and tailoring classes in partnership with Duncan Hospital will be effective

That the believers will stand firm in their faith no matter what happens

For our missionaries' plans to expand the ministry to the Sagauli block region

9 Church Ministries, Tamil Nadu

Praise God

For 4 missionary dedications at Chennai and Tirupur on February 14, 2010

For the new supports which we received for missionary and their children

That some of our supporters and supporters were able to visit the mission fields and the results are very encouraging

For the missionary dedication service today during the CSI Church Convention at Kotiyodu, Kanyakumri district

Pray

For Rev. E.D. Rajasingh who will be ministering today at the CSI Church Convention and Youth programme at Kotiyodu

For preparations for the Training In Missions (TIM) Camp scheduled to be held from June 1-6 2010 at OTI. Thirty youth are expected to attend.

10 Kheri, Uttar Pradesh

Praise God

That 2 believers from Poyo village openly confessed their faith in the Lord recently

That many people attended the believers' meeting at Kiratpur

For the 60 children who attended the Vacation Bible School programme on February 12, 2010

Pray

That a land to construct a hostel building will be purchased

For the hostel children who are writing their exams

Koraput, Orissa Pray for the Field Convention at Boro Parbo beginning today. Pray that this programme will encourage the believers and challenge them to reach their own people

11 Jalpaiguri, West Bengal

Praise God

For many contacts especially among the young people at Achapuri village



For the fresh opportunities for ministry in Madatiah and surrounding villages

Pray

That the worship service at Lothabari village will be conducted regularly

For more openings for ministry in Achapuri village

That a local Helper will be located and appointed to conduct the worship service Deikhie village

That the family of a believer Khejirs who passed away recently will be comforted

12 Papumpare, Arunachal Pradesh

Praise God

For the 14 people who openly confessed their faith in the Lord on December 20, 2010. Praise For the 'Hoj' fellowship church which was dedicated on January 10, 2010.

That our missionaries are planning to conduct a leadership training at Neepeco Baptist church

Pray

That the believers will grow spiritually strong

That our contact will understand the love of Christ and trust Him as their Saviour

That our missionaries' families will be kept healthy

13 Bible Translation Projects

Praise God

That the Koya, Garasia and Bison Horn Madiya(Gondi) New Testaments are being widely distributed and used by the local believers

For Bible Translation Coordinator, John Mathai as he encourages the

translation teams and interacts with other agencies for the speedy completion of projects

Pray

For the Bible translation teams who are working hard to complete the translation of the New Testament in their respective languages. They are at various stages of translation

For Dr D Devagnanavaram, who though he is improving after his recent setback, has a long way to go

The missionaries of **North Zone II** are going through the Sharpening Your Interpersonal Skills(SYIS) seminar at Raxaul from today till April 16, 2010

14 Robertsganj, Uttar Pradesh

Praise God

That our missionaries could conduct *bhajans* in Kargara village. As a result, 6 contacts have decided to follow Jesus

That a person who used to threaten our missionaries now sending his son for tutition

That in answer to prayer, a seeker, Batohi's daughter from Alavur village is able to walk

Pray

That the 6 contacts who decided to follow the Lord will be firm in their commitement to Him

That doors for ministry will be opened in new areas in the Robertsganj region

That the neighbours' children who used to attend the worship service will return to the fellowship



That a contact Suresh will be a channel of blessing for ministry in future

That Parmesh, local youth will turn to the Lord Jesus

The Communication Sub Committee begins today at Outreach Training Institute, Bagalur, Tamil Nadu and go on till the 17th. **Pray** for noted writer Ms Ingrid Alberquerque as she imparts ideas and gives guidelines to our regional editors on how to improve editorial quality of magazine

**** Tamil Nadu Church Ministries: Pray** for the Area Secretaries Retreat today at Nagercoil

15 Koraput, Orissa

Khond People

Praise God

That though some believers were ex-communicated, they continue to remain strong in the Lord

That 2 believers have openly declared that they are Christians

That a believer Kunthi from Konjoriguda village continues to be strong in the Lord in spite of losing her son

Pray

That those who want to openly confess their faith in the Lord will be free to do so after completing all formalities

For the micro-entrepreneur's training programme scheduled in the near future

That the Firm Foundation Bible lessons will be translated quickly into the Kuvi language by our missionaries

16 Church Ministries, Orissa

Praise God

That Mr Suchit Panda a supporter was able to increase his contribution after retirement

Our new Mission co-ordinator, Mr Subha Dutta Rout has enlisted 76 new supporters from December

That many churches and individuals have evinced great interest in missionary work

Pray

That the Lord will heal Augustine, son of Mr & Mrs. Satya Ranjan Soren who is suffering from Glycogen Storage disease

For the plans which are going on in preparation for State convention in October at Bhubaneshwar

17 Krishnagiri, Tamil Nadu

Praise God

For the successful youth programme on February 13, 2010 during which our missionaries were able to give good advice on exams to our hostel and other young people

For enabling our children in both the boys' and girls' hostels to write their exams well

Pray

For funds needed to construct the Girls' hostel

For funds to maintain the Boys' hostel building

That the hostel children will be able to share the Gospel with the friends during the holiday season

18 Hosur, Tamil Nadu

Praise God

For the blessed Church dedication programme in



Dodagawnapalli on March 13, 2010

That the Sonnepuram and Karnapalli village-folk were blessed with a good harvest of vegetables

Pray

That our believer Mrs Vanakurukiammal's husband who is ailing will experience healing

That the Lord will perfect His will concerning Mr. Gundappa, a believer from Dodagawnapalli who has been bedridden for 10 months

That our believer Mr. Chandrappa will secure a suitable job and his faith will be strengthened

Tamil Nadu Church Ministries

Pray for the one-day IEM Missions Sunday today at Coonoor

19 Khamman, Andhra Pradesh

Praise God

That 4 fruitful Koya conventions were successfully conducted. Nearly 1500 believers attended

That these conventions were fully self-supported

For new Worship Groups formed in 13 places – Beemaram, P.G.Kothur, Kattmeerunaru, Gommugudem, Goundimukti, Kristunagar, Kachinapally, Kothur, Gommubandar, Regalapadu, Mekalabanda, M.P.Banjar, Anandapuram.

For the 60 Worship Centres established in Koya field thus far

For the 40 ministry helpers who attended the Retreat for them and were truly blessed and encouraged

For the many believers who openly confessed their faith in the Lord in many churches during Easter

Pray

That the Vacation Bible Schools during April and May will reach out to many new children

That many prospective teachers will attend the 3 Sunday School Teacher Training Camps during May, 2010

That the church construction programmes in Kattumallu and Oddugudem will be completed soon

That through the leadership Training Camp in this month many new and potential leaders will be identified and nurtured

20 Chinnoor, Andhra Pradesh

Praise God

That the Bheemaram Church was reconstructed and dedicated on February 27, 2010 by our General Secretary

For the 31 believers who openly confessed their faith in the Lord in Chinnoor during March 2010

For the 10 new families who were added to the church during March

Pray

That 5 New Worship Groups will be established during 2010

That the new believers who openly confessed their faith in the Lord will stand firm in the Lord

That our missionaries and local evangelists will be kept in good health as they serve the Lord faithfully

21 Bonagiripally, Andhra Pradesh

Praise God

For the 325 believers who attended the field convention at Bonagiripally



For the 15 people who openly confessed their faith in the Lord
For the 12 new families who were added to the church.

For healing a new believer Gouramma from her ailment

For Gouramma's 2 daughters who openly confessed their faith in the Lord

Pray

That the Nagaram church construction will be completed soon

That 2 more New Worship Groups will be established this year

22 Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh

Praise God

That the field convention at Kottalacheruvu from March 26–28, 2010 was a great blessing

For helping our hostel children to write their exams well

Pray

For the provision for all the needs of the hostel children

For granting our missionary good health as he travels on rugged roads to reach the villages

23 Finance Department, Bangalore

Praise God

For His faithfulness in meeting the growing needs of the Mission through His people

For helping our Finance Secretary and the office staff to cope well with huge work load every day

Pray

That the monetary needs of projects and programmes of the Mission will be met

That the expenses related to our missionaries' children's education will be provided for

24 Lakhnadon, Madhya Pradesh

Praise God

For the encouragement and right hand of fellowship our missionaries get from the Lakhnadon Christian hospital

For Mr. Nganingkhui Kashung a new missionary appointed in this field

For enabling our missionaries to use their spiritual gifts and talent for Gods glory

Pray

That the many seekers and contacts would become the followers of Lord Jesus Christ

That our believers would continue to grow in the Lord and become effective soul winners

That God would continue to deliver people from devil's bondage and bring in to His fold in this area.

25 Overseas Associates

Praise God

For the tireless ministry carried out by our Overseas Associates who care to share in our needs

For the keen interest evinced by these dear fellow workers

Pray

For Dr. Jim Zottnick (USA) who is recovering after hip replacement surgery

That as a result of the ministry of our General Secretary in USA, more prayer partners and partnerships will be raised

26 Chikaldara, Maharashtra

Praise God

For God enabling our missionaries and evangelist to conduct revival meetings in many villages That some believers who strayed away from the fellowship are now returning

Pray

That our missionaries and evangelists will continue to be empowered by God's Word so that the ministry will flourish

That in spite of hindrances we will be able to establish 3 new Worship Groups

That our believers' children who are studying in hostels will continue to grow in the Lord

27 Andamans

Praise God

For the 6 people who openly confessed their faith in the Lord in Foster Valley in Kadamtala

For helping Field Secretary Rev. Akhai Haokip to conduct the first marriage in Kadamtala

For the provision of cots and shelves for the Hostel children in Diglipur

Pray

For the main field programmes this month:- Contacts' Meeting at Diglipur, Film show at Kadamtala, and Children's Retreat at Billiground.

For the supporters team from Meghalaya who will be visiting our Field during this second week.

For the Lord's guidance in selection of new children for the

Hostel & School in the new academic year.

For Narasimhalu, a believer from Nimbutala Jetty, who has been sick for many days

28 Belamandal, Andhra Pradesh

Kolam

Praise God

That our missionaries Mr. & Mrs. Thole are steadily learning the language

For new seekers are coming to the Worship Centers from their villages and there are new openings for ministry

Pray

That in spite of the water scarcity during the summer months, the people will have enough water for their basic needs

That the seekers who are coming to the worship will accept the Lord Jesus as their personal Saviour

That our missionary Mr. Nehemiah will be given a 2-wheeler for ministry very soon

That more native workers from Kolam and Telugu people will be appointed soon

29 Bastar, Chhatisgarh

Praise God

That our missionaries were able to begin a Day-care centre at Mokhagaon village from February 1, 2010. Twenty children are being cared for

For the 15-20 children who attend the tuitions at Bijariguda village

For the new contact at Pokhanaguda village



For the completion of the first draft of Matthew's Gospel

For helping our missionaries to teach linguistics for 20 missionary candidates at OTI

Pray

That our missionaries will be able to establish more contacts through the Day-care programme

For the completion of the Worship Hall at Mokhagaon village

For the 6 believers who are preparing to openly confess their faith in the lord

That Sonadhar, a contact who had an accident will be healed and in turn accept Jesus as His personal Saviour

**30 Communication Services,
Bangalore, Karnataka**

Praise God

For enabling us to produce the IEM Outreach in 9 different languages for His glory

For strengthening our translators and granting them wisdom to accurately translate every article

For enabling our Regional Editors to publish every issue in time

Pray

That all planned publications and promotional materials will be brought out in time

For the timely provision of funds for all these projects

That the documetaries of our ministry in Chikaldara and Koya will be completed soon

For all the staff who are helping in each regional office.

Prayer may not change things for you, but it for sure changes you for things.

– Samuel M. Shoemaker

Continued from Page 12

interest in studies. I did not know the true God. Besides, I found English difficult. I praise God that He heard my prayer. He helped me get good marks. I got to know of God's love and that He is the true God and accepted Jesus as my personal Saviour. I love Jesus. After my study I want to serve God and become an ideal teacher."

Evangelist's Endeavour

We Chose to Serve Him

Saved to Serve

Muralidhara Banra (Baliposi) "I hail from a 'HO' family. My father was a witch doctor. In blind faith,

we used to sacrifice goats, and chickens to spirits, hoping for healing and other benefits. We used to oppose Christians. Once we even tried to kill God's servant Rev Pradeep Kumar Das and Rev David Barnabas using bows and arrows."

Once my 6-month old son became seriously ill. Though we performed pujas, he did not seem to recover. So we took him to a believer's family where they prayed and child became well. Yet we returned to our old faith. When my father became ill, we called the witch doctor, sacrificed chickens but nothing happened. We did not know what to do so we



Sunday school
under a tree

called some believers. They prayed and after one week my father passed away after he believed in Jesus. Only then I understood that we were leading sinful lives by keeping ourselves far from the true God. I read the Bible, heard the Gospel through an evangelist repented and believed in Jesus. Then I openly confessed my faith in Him. Later I have been serving as an evangelist for the last 3 years.

I Gave Up My Ambition to Make Money

Sukadev Hembram “I come from Jalsahi village belong to “HO’ tribe. According family customs, I worshipped spirits. Once I friended Darasing who attacked Christians during a jungle camp in Baliposu village. I attended in the camp, heard the Gospel and accepted Jesus as my personal Saviour. Jesus forgave all my sins and I openly confessed my faith before my own people. I went to church regularly, started to read the Bible and prayed. God called me to serve Him among people who are in the darkness, leading sinful lives. My task is to reach them and build them up in the

Lord. So I gave up my desire to earn money and have been serving the Lord for 3 years. When I left my home to serve the Lord, my family members did not give me any share of the land. Still, I want to serve the Lord more and more. Pray that my wife Masumi, my daughter Eunice and I will not be hindered from serving

the Lord.”

Continuous Growth

Sadhu Charan Bodara “I praise God for His Love! I belong to the HO community. I did not love Jesus or the Christian people and constantly opposed them. In 1992, there was only one Christian family in our village. They faced a tough time when persecutors broke a solar tape recorder, burnt Bibles and wanted to beat the head of the family. The Lord protected him. In 1997, I went to their house just to inflate my cycle’s tyres. I was given a New Testament so I began to read with a real thirst. The Lord spoke through His Word and I turned to the Lord and openly confessed my faith.

When I looked at my own people, I felt they need the Saviour as well. God gave me burden for my own people. From 2001, I am serving the Lord. There is continuous growth in the ministry. Pray that the old believers will stand firm in faith and the new ones will grow spiritually. Pray that we will serve the Lord will the end of our lives.

Labouring for the Perishing Millions



As a student in college, I used to read the mission magazines that spoke of the unreached people in North India. God burdened me for these people

and I would spend time in prayer for them.

My burden grew heavier and I committed myself to serve God full-time. One day, as I fasted and prayed, God spoke to me from the book of Nehemiah. I asked God to confirm my calling. I participated in the UESI mission's conference where I recommitted myself to doing cross cultural missionary work.

Whatever I had heard about different people's culture, language and lifestyle became true in my own field experience. When I entered the village, I thought about how to adjust to the people, keeping my own comfort in mind, so my heart was disturbed and discouraged.

I asked the Lord to help me overcome my worldly thinking. God spoke to me from Acts 17:16 reminding me of how Paul was disturbed because Athens was full of idols. God told me to see the people as He saw them. I asked God to forgive me. He enabled me to see perishing people through Christ's eyes. Now, I am burdened when I kneel in prayer for them.

Living with the people and loving

them, I understood their condition. I saw people perishing because of their spiritual darkness because they did not know the living God. Nobody had told them about Him. This made me do something.

Prayer is the most important part of my life in the battlefield. My outlook should be that of Christ's. In all circumstances, I should look only at the Cross, not at circumstances. I should always be available to people. My humility should testify to people.

Mr. Samuel R. Ebin,

Spent 3 months and 15 days at Chattarpur, Madhya Pradesh

The Languages of Tears



God called me to serve Him soon after I accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior in January 2007 during my 2nd year Bsc course. I prayed continuously

to know God's will. When I completed my studies in October 2001, God revealed His will to me in a dream based on Matthew 28: 18-20.

At first I was afraid but God confirmed my call through Jeremiah 1-9 and Psalms 32: 8-9. he also spoke through another dream where I saw a vision of many children entangled in sexual sins. I cried, "who will correct their lives?" Then I read a sentence scripted in bright colours across the sky, "Hurry up to Work!" I set out to serve the Lord with a broken heart.

The mission field is a battle field. Various languages, cultures and

climates are one of its features. Would I be able to survive? Who will help me? I wept as I pondered over these things but God comforted me from Isaiah 66: 13 “as a mother comforts her child.” This spurred me go to the mission field gladly.

God Knows

My husband Mr. Senthil Kumar and I had planned to move to another village. We found a village with no basic facilities but an opening for ministry and an opportunity to learn the language. A house was also available for us. All we needed was a vehicle to transport our things. After 2 days a vehicle arrived and we deposited a few things, in it. Suddenly we were told not go there. Although discouraged, we prayed and God spoke through Luke 10: 21.

God reminded us to look after our health. I was 3 month pregnant and my husband’s fractured leg had been operated. We looked to God, and He thought about us. God enabled us to perform in the first village what we had hoped to do in the second one. This made me work harder for God.

I pray that when I look to the Lord, He will look to me. I want to break my heart in His presence to bring souls into God’s Kingdom. I want to be fluent in the language of the people and have a lifestyle acceptable to them.

Mrs. Kanagamani Senthil

After spending 2 months in Hadothi, Rajasthan.

Faithful in the Face of Discouragement

God saved my life through a couple who adopted me when I



was 2 months. The missionaries inspired me to become a missionary. As I was growing, my mother prayed that I would become a faithful

servant of God. Through her sincere prayers, God called me to be a missionary. I am committed to reaching the unreached with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I had heard a lot about mission fields before I actually went there. It was difficult to see the lifestyle of the people but God reminded me of His command, “Go and preach. I am with you.” (Matthew 28: 18–20) By His grace, I completed my field exposure and I praise God for His faithfulness.

In Fatehpur, I visited a place called, Christian colony and no believers were there! The Canadian missionaries had sold all the land to protect themselves. A shopkeeper told me that this was a Christian colony with a school. Now, only the land was left. At that moment, a man made a bad comment in Hindi about Christians. Dear friends and prayer supporters, I felt very ashamed. My actions and lifestyles as a Christian are important.

My prayer is for patience. Our missionaries have been working for the past 5 years. Yet they have not seen any fruit. They have not lost heart and believe that God will give a breakthrough one day. (Psalms 46: 10–11) My senior missionaries taught me patience!

Mrs. Delarason Anal

Spent time in Fatehpur (Madhya Pradesh from October 2009 – January 2010

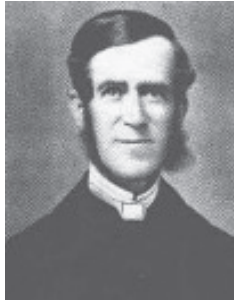


Steadfast and Successful

(The name John Geddie may not figure in the list of world famous missionaries. And yet, this frail yet faithful man will find many stars in his crown as many Samoans step forward to tell the Saviour that John Geddie led them to the Lord. This man's inspiring biography is both challenging and motivating. Read on...)

Godly Upbringing

John Geddie was born in Banff, Scotland, April 10, 1815. His father was a devout member of the Presbyterian Church and his mother Mary Menzies came from a pious family as well. This couple was blessed with 4 children – 3 daughters and their only son who happened to be John Geddie. John Geddie was an active boy and an eager student. Like John Bunyan, he was powerfully convicted of sin. The love of Christ removed the terrors of the law and on June 22, 1834, at the age of 19, he united with the Presbyterian Church.



following year he married Charlotte McDonald.

Promoted Missions as a Pastor

John Geddie sought to promote the idea that the Church should engage aggressively in foreign mission work.

This was a new idea, for up to this time, churches in the British colonies were seeking financial aid for their own work from their brethren in other lands. Thousands of hearts were stirred to action as he declared, "To undertake a mission to the heathen is our solemn duty and our high privilege."

Persevered in spite of Poor Health

Geddie was an avid reader. He loved books which spoke of the triumphs of the Gospel in far-away lands. His health declined and he wondered how he would be able to cope with his theological studies. Yet, he solemnly dedicated himself to the Lord, vowing that if his health were restored and the way opened, he would go with the message of salvation to some heathen land. He was ordained on March 13, 1838 as pastor of a congregation on Prince Edward Island. The

Then Went as Missionary himself

Over a period of time, the church committed herself to establish a mission in the South Seas and accepted the Geddies as their first missionaries. Geddie's mechanical skills and his knowledge of medicine would come in handy during his ministry among Melanesian and Polynesian savages. The two missionaries and their children sailed from Halifax on November 30, 1846. In his parting message Geddie declared, "In accordance with the Redeemer's command and assured

of His presence, we are going forth to those lands where Satan has established his dark domain. I know that suffering awaits me. But to bear the redeemer's yoke is an honor to one who has felt the Redeemer's love."

On October 17, 1847, after a journey of more than 20,000 miles, the vessel sailed into the harbor of Pango-pango Samoa. While waiting to be transported inland to Eastern Melanesia, Geddie devoted 6 months to the study of the Samoan language.

Geddie was known as the father of Presbyterian missions in the South Seas." He arrived on the island of Aneitum of the New Hebrides group in 1848. "Though severed now from those with whom we could take sweet counsel," wrote Geddie, "we are not alone. We have His promise, at whose command we have come hither, 'Lo, I am with you always.' "

Geddie and his wife were soon engrossed in learning the Aneiteumese tongue. After mastering Aneiteumese, the first assignment was to reduce it to writing and then to print some materials to help enlighten the people.

When Geddie first reached Aneiteum there was not a single native convert. The people of Aneiteum looked like savages. The men wore long hair, while the women had short hair. A man's hair was his chief pride. It was smeared with a red paint and divided into a large number of long twisted locks.

Savages Needed a Saviour

Women were practically slaves to their husbands. Unwanted babies

were casually put to death. When a man died, his wife was immediately strangled so that her spirit might accompany his to the next world, and any children too young to take care of themselves suffered the same fate as the mother. If there was a grown son, he was expected to perform the act of strangulation.

In one of the letters he wrote home he said, "The love of Christ sustains us and constrains us. My heart pants to tell this miserable people the wonders of redeeming love." One day his desire was fulfilled. "I thank God," he wrote in his Journal, "that I have been spared to see this day when, for the first time, I can tell perishing sinners of the Saviour's love."

Geddie worked diligently for the evangelization of the home base. By means of schools and personal conversations he persevered in his endeavors to win the Aneiteumese. Very few attended school at first. The people would ask, "How much will you pay me to come and study?" the Geddies lost their youngest son Alexander. This broke their hearts but not their will to serve the Lord come what may. Several times, people tried to kill him.

Geddie trained believers to go forth as Christian teachers and evangelists. Gradually, the missionary began to reap some precious sheaves.

Rewarding Results

After years of labour, God gave the increase. The natives who attended their meetings used to come with their clubs and spears and painted visages; but now they

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Till we Meet Again...



With deep sorrow, we announce the passing away of **Mr G Suresh Kumar**, our beloved former Chairman of the IEM Board, during the early hours of March 10, 2010.

Tall, lean and always smiling is one of the many ways we can describe the colourful personality of Mr Suresh Kumar. After serving as a lecturer in AC College, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, he served on the Boards of various organisations including IEM. His servant attitude won him many admirers and in turn enabled him to bring about progressive changes in organisational setups throughout the country and especially in Andhra Pradesh.

Mr Suresh Kumar was introduced to IEM by Rev R George Raju, former IEM Associate General Secretary. From then on, he played many pivotal roles as a supporter, Area Secretary, interpreter at IEM conventions, Society member, Board member and finally as Chairman during a crucial season in IEM. His command over Telugu, English, Hindi and other Indian languages enabled him to connect with people easily and maintain strong and vibrant relationships. His ability as an interpreter from English to Telugu was well known. In fact, the first time he interpreted was during the IEM Andhra Pradesh Youth Camp in Mehboobnagar where our General Secretary, Rev P John Wesley was the speaker. He made himself available in the IEM headquarters whenever his presence was required. Mr Suresh Kumar never missed a single Board meeting during his tenure as member of the Society as well as Chairman.

No problem was an impossibility. He not only preached on prayer; he practised private, prevailing prayer as well. His faith in God was unshakable. "We cannot fight life's battles on our own," he said, "that's why God sent the Holy Spirit to fight them for us!" "Finding money for missions is no problem," he declared, "finding men with faith is the problem!"

Mr Suresh Kumar travelled widely in India and abroad. Wherever he went, he laid emphasis on missionary work because he believed that sinful souls needed a seeking Saviour.

Mr Suresh Kumar never complained about his physical weaknesses. "Those things are there, but God is faithful," was his standard answer to those who enquired about his health. He drew strength from the Lord. Mr Suresh Kumar was unable to attend the funeral or memorial thanksgiving service of his mentor, Rev Dr Theodore Williams. However, in his tribute titled, "Vivid Memories," he wrote, "My relationship with

him (Rev Williams) spanned 25 years. I learned several spiritual truths. I became very close to him as a translator.” He spoke of the “glorious day” on which Rev Williams entered into “glory land.” Now, our beloved brother Suresh Kumar is in glory land as well.

The funeral service was held on Saturday, March 13 and followed by a memorial service the same evening. We assure his beloved wife, Mrs Vijayalakshmi and their daughters Sushmita, Supriya and Swapna and their families of our constant prayers and support during their season of sorrow.



Working Behind the Scenes

(We received a large number of responses from our beloved supporters and found it difficult to feature all of them in the March issue. So we decided to introduce some more of them in this issue as well. We hope they inspire you as they have inspired us)

He Lifted Me



Although I was brought up in a Christian home, I did not become a Christian in the biblical sense of the term until I attended

a student camp conducted by UESI in October 1972. Since then, I have tried to follow my Lord and He lifted me up and used me for His glory. In His time and according to His plan, He called me to be a missionary. He used Rev Dr Theodore Williams to challenge me to serve through IEM.

I came to know about IEM through Mr Gladson Anchan. Then I attended the IEM National convention at Bharuch Gujarat where I heard Rev Dr Theodore Williams and felt a definite call for missionary work. Now I am serving as Mission coordinator based in Ujjain (Madhya Pradesh). I look after the Malwa region and try to impart the missionary vision to different churches.

I want to reach out to churches which are still untouched so that in turn they will realize their responsibility of reaching the unreached millions of our country and be involved in the ministries of IEM. This will be done through the IEM Sunday, missionary meetings and regional conventions. I will also encourage youth to become missionaries.

Praveen Kumar Joshi Ujjain

We Serve Him Together

Nisha Lall: I was brought up in a good Christian family. I



participated in many church activities and thought I was a Christian. After marriage, we moved to Bhilai where a servant of God used to teach us from the

Bible. The Lord opened my eyes through Romans 3:23 and Proverbs 28:13. I acknowledged my sin and He forgave me. It was during a

mission field visit that I saw the mission work being done by IEM missionaries. This compelled me to do something more for IEM. At present I am a Mission coordinator.

I want to setup more prayer groups and challenge pastors to open their churches for the Gospel and mission work.

Ajendra Kumar Lall: I thought I was a Christian by birth. But after marriage, when my pastor asked me to teach in Sunday School, I wanted to refuse but couldn't.



During lesson preparation, I began to see shortcomings, weaknesses and sins then as I opened God's Word. I realised I was a sinner. Now I am a sinner saved by grace.

I was challenged to support missionary work during a mission field visit to Chikaldara and 2 other mission fields. I saw the commitment, dedication and hard work of the missionaries for the kingdom of God. Presently, I am serving as Mission coordinator.

I want to approach more churches and challenge them to open their doors for missionary work. I also want to intensify mission awareness among believers and to raise more prayer and financial support for IEM.

Difficult Yet determined

I was born in a Christian family when Mr. David Samuel, an Area Secretary was transferred to Tirunelveli. My husband is no more and I am living with my mentally



retarded daughter (aged 40) from 2000 onwards.

Through Rev David Samuel, I was challenged to work for IEM. Those days

our family suffered a lot. Now I am helping as an Area Coordinator and God is meeting our needs.

At 68, I am looking for committed Area secretaries who will continue my work after my days.

Padmini G, Sawyerpuram

Inspired to Support IEM

In 1984, I attended an IEM convention in Indore, Madhya Pradesh. Rev Dr



Theodore Williams was main speaker. The Lord Jesus inspired me to support the IEM. I was only a supporter. Later, in 1995, I was

appointed as Area Secretary. We have been working among the churches by organizing prayer cells and holding conventions.

I was challenged by the growth of IEM. It is truly God's plan and His miracle. IEM has grown many-fold since I joined IEM as a supporter. I am impressed by the church planting ministry as well its church ministries focus. Currently, I am a Mission coordinator.

By God's grace I want to continue to support IEM as a whole and to continue my present involvement as an Area Coordinator.

Dr. Ashwin K. Patlia, Chattisgarh

Always Interested in Missionary Work



I worked as a postmaster in Nadiad post office. My parents insisted on personal prayers and the family altar. In 1999, Rev R M Rathod preached powerfully in our church during the Passion Week meetings and I accepted the Lord Jesus as my personal Saviour. I loved to bring others to the Lord and I was always interested in missionary work.

I was fascinated by the simple, prayerful and challenging life and commitment of Mr. Immanuel Christian an Area Secretary of IEM. He used to go house-to-house and distribute "PADKAR", the Gujarati edition of IEM Outreach. His commitment was so deep that people knew him as Immubhai Padkarwala! My family used to read this magazine very regularly and would pray regularly for missionary work. My wife Manjulaben is a prayer warrior. I

was appointed as an Area Secretary on August 27, 2002. I visited homes, distributed magazines and raised prayer and financial support for the ministry of IEM. I was encouraged by the IEM Church Ministry work and we took many participants to the National Conventions at Baroda, Nasik, Bangalore and Delhi. I also participated in Church Ministry Training programme and visited Dangs, Chikaldara and Kolam mission fields. As an Area Coordinator of Nadiad, I can say that Christians here are aware of missionary work. I am grateful to the Lord that my wife Manjula and my children have supported my ministry and encouraged me.

Last year, I celebrated my 73rd birthday! I know that God has given me New Life to serve Him faithfully. I have a sound physique and a great support from my wife, family and Church Ministry personnel. I want to see Gujarati Christians, especially youth go out as missionaries to the remotest parts of our country and abroad.

Johnbhai S Macwan, Nadiad

Missionary Biography Continued from Page No. 26

seldom saw a weapon on Sunday. It was a day of rejoicing and thanksgiving when the ordinance of the Lord's Supper was first observed."

The New Testament, then the whole Bible, was translated and put into the hands of the people. Thousands turned to Christ, and twenty-five churches were crowded with eager worshippers on each Lord's Day.

When, after twenty-four years of toil, he answered his homecall and went to be with the Lord on December 14, 1872, his tombstone epitaph read, "In memory of John Geddie, D.D., born in Scotland, 1815, minister in Prince Edward Island seven years, Missionary sent from Nova Scotia to Aneiteum for twenty-four years. When he landed in 1848, there were no Christians here, and when he left in 1872 there were no heathen."

Advantage Adventure

Explore India this Summer

Hi friends,

The summer holidays are already upon us. If you've not made your travel plans, join us for an exciting adventure into unchartered territory.

Here is **a rare opportunity to visit places and people.** This 9-day trip including travel and local conveyance costs a minimum of Rs 2000/ per person. Food expenses extra.

Let's hurry because it's already time to board the Rapti Sagar express bound for Lucknow from Chennai Central. Catch glimpses of the plains and plateaus and experience the unique diversity of India- different languages and scripts, costumes and culture and so many varieties of food on the way! The train pulls into Charbagh station, Lucknow, at 10:45am. Before we get used to the sights and sounds of Lucknow, we've got to make our way to Aishbagh station by auto or cycle rickshaw to board train the train to Palia, where our missionaries live. A little over 5 hours later and we're at Palia where we will halt for the night in our missionaries' home. We need to get into bed early because we've got a long day ahead.

Up early the next morning and we're ready to venture into Dudhwa National Park, 10 kilometres from Palia. A 4-wheeler is the best mode of transport to

visit the royal creatures in their natural habitat. In fact, the best time to meet them is between May-June and December-January. Watch the magnificent swamp deer, the *Barasingha* whizz past us, its webbed antlers standing firm on its small head. Oh! There goes the tiger...looks like its lunch time for him already. And there's the lazy rhino. Boy! Isn't he huge? Further down, the sloth bear wobbling down the jungle path, the jackal searching for his mate and the quiet crocodile's deceptive jaws. Aren't the birds beautiful? A museum displays the portraits, photos and parts of the animals and birds living in Dudhwa. Back to Palia for the night.

The next morning, we're off to visit Rana Tharu settlements on the edge of the forest, along the Indo-Nepal border. Some women still wear their cultural attire - the Gangaria. They married in their teens so don't be surprised to find 32-year old grandfathers among them! They are very creative and make baskets from jungle grass. Don't scream when you eat their chilli-salty and tasty Tharuwa food!

Rana Tharu people are Animists but many have embraced Hinduism or the Radhaswami faith. The Gospel reached them in the early '90s. Now there are around 200 churches. First generation believers y will share with you what it means to follow Christ and

trust in God! When someone has fever or headache, they pray! We would probably use a paracetamol. It's time to fellowship around a bonfire with the believers and stay overnight at a Rana Tharu village Church or believers' home.

Imagine crossing an international border by bus or auto! In a matter of minutes, we're in Dhangarhi town where we can shop till early afternoon. Goods from China and other nations are available cheaply. Original branded shoes, bedspreads, blankets, crockery and numerous electronic items are available. The ratio between Indian and Nepali currency is 6:10.

Well, whether you like it or not, we need to head back home... but not before visiting Agra where the monument love – the Taj Mahal

majestically bekons us. The Agra fort is another significant historical place. Time to head home friends!

Let's think! Can we use our talents, skills and resources to make less-privileged members in Christ's Family better? Perhaps your interaction with the Rana Tharu people might help you discover the purpose for which God has prepared and equipped you. The choice to obey Him is yours.

"For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose". (Philippians 2: 13)

Welcome back to Tharu-land friends!

Sheeba Akka
Missionary- Bible translator
Among the Rana Tharu people



Yet another Landmark for the Lord

For the believers in Bheemaram village in Adilabad district, Andhra Pradesh, Saturday, February 27, 2010 will go down as an unforgettable

personal Saviour and Lord. The confidence with which they spoke revealed their deep-seated desire to live for the Lord wholeheartedly.



After Rev Wesley cut the ribbon, the people moved into the church building and sat down in an orderly fashion, as Zonal Field Secretary, Jeevan Pratap led the meeting. Several IEM leaders including Rev Jonathan Chavan, Central Secretary for Field Ministries, Mr Solomon Swamidoss, Finance Secretary, Rev P Vethanayagam, Administrative Secretary and Rev Dayavaran, Tamil Nadu State

Secretary for Church Ministries shared words of encouragement. Rev GS Ananda Rao, who lived and worked in Bheemaram for 30 years, had words of a shepherd for the people who he "carried" during experience in the history of IEM's ministry there. Over 200 people gathered to witness the dedication of the reconstruted church building. Joining them were our missionaries, visitors and IEM leaders lead by our General Secretary, Rev P John Wesley.

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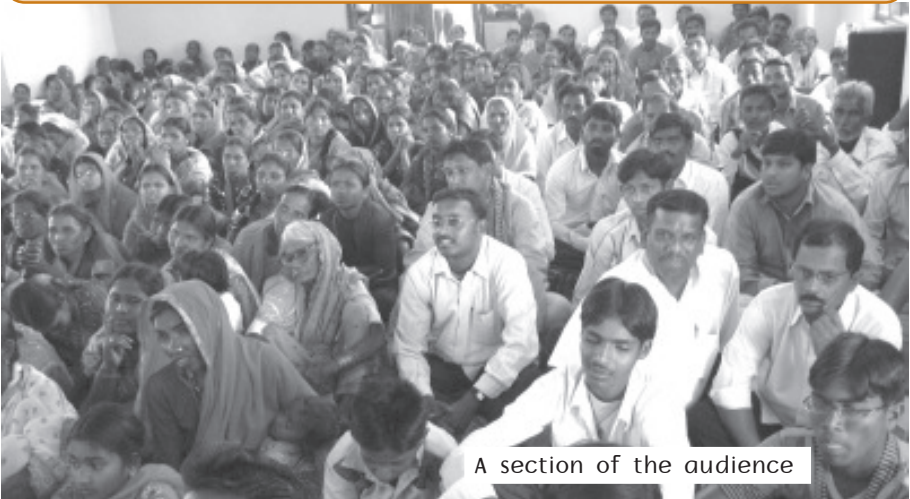
The programme began with a baptism service. Eleven believers, including the 75-year old father of our missionary B Solomon were baptised by Rev Wesley. In the presence of their own people, they declared the Lord Jesus as their



IEM leaders with
Rev . G. S. Ananda Rao

Pentiah Boldly testifies

For B Solomon, it was a pleasant surprise when he saw his father climb the steps to the baptised. “I never knew he would do this,” said Solomon. “Even though I am a missionary, I did not force my father to take baptism. This was his decision and it came 20 years after he accepted the Lord.”



A section of the audience

his ministry there. The 2 daughters of our missionaries B Solomon & Suguna and one of their friends sang Don Moen’s song, “This your house, We welcome you today!”

Rev John Wesley challenged the believers from the Word of God to

bring in people into the House of God. He recalled how Rev Dr Theodore Williams dedicated the first church building in the late eighties and thanked God for the progress made since then

The participants were treated to a sumptuous lunch provided by a church elder.

After 30 years...

“There were no believers in Bheemaram when we came here 30 years ago. When we left the field and moved to Hyderabad, the people wept and did not want us to leave.” These words uttered by Rev GS Ananda Rao, aptly sum up the sweat, tears, pain, joy and victories that went into building beautiful believers in Bheemaram. “I did not share the experiences we went through... that was my mistake,” he admits humbly.

We praise God for this man of God who completed his tenure with IEM on February 28, 2010. He still has a long way to go as he continues to translate the Bible into the Lambadi language because in God’s service, there is no retirement!

Festivity in the wilderness



The Church amid the rocks!

It was a long road to Dodegownipalli! On March 13, 2010, this village saw the dedication of an edifice that marked the presence of God and His people. Doddegowipalli will never be the same again.

The Good Shepherd Church, Dodegownipalli stands out amid the

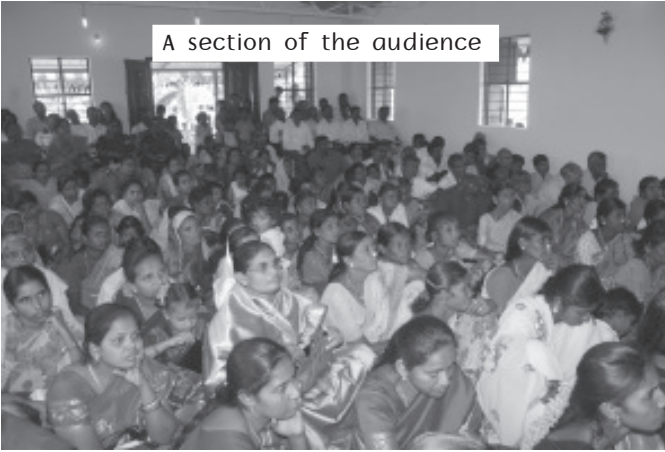
rocks, both literally and figuratively. Though the weather was hot, the smiles on the believers' faces was reason enough for over a 150 people from Hosur, Chennai and Bangalore to spend over 3 hours, rejoicing with the 300 local people who had waited for many years to have a roof over their heads.

The service began with a choral procession led our IEM General Secretary, Rev P John Wesley. With a prayer of thanksgiving and gratitude to God, he cut the ribbon and the people made their way in the church, irrespective of the colour, caste, or language they spoke. Truly, the blood of Jesus unites under the banner of the Cross.



A special song by Hostel girls

The programme was led by our Associate Central Secretary for Field Ministries, Rev Ramesh Elanchezian. Expressing gratitude to God, believers from the Sonnepuram sister church sang a beautiful song of praise to God. One of the highlights was the touching testimony of Mr Selvakumar, former Treasurer of the IEM Board who spoke about how the Lord led him to participate in the actual construction of the



A section of the audience

building. Rev Jackin Isravel, Zonal Field Secretary challenged the people to be steadfast in their commitment to the Living God.

In his message, Rev John Wesley challenged the people grow in the Lord. Speaking from II Chronicles 7:11-

16, focusing on verse 12, "...I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a temple for sacrifices."

The ministry began in 1990. Many laboured in this mission field and God gave the increase. Our missionaries, Mahendran & Jaya "put their hands to the plough" in July 2002 and through them, God enabled them to harvest bountifully.

After a sumptuous lunch, the people returned glorifying and praising God for all that they had seen and heard!

They Also "Served"

The presence of 2 minibuses, 1 van, many cars and even 2-wheelers was testimony to the involvement of churches and families. The Indiranagar Methodist Church and St Paul's church from Bangalore were present in large numbers. The entire batch of trainees from Outreach Training Institute and some staff were also present. IEM staff from Chennai and Bangalore were also there.



Mother sees daughter at work!

For 20 years, our missionary Jaya Mahendran's mother did not know what her daughter was actually doing. Now, she saw and believed that Jaya was actually serving the King of kings and Lord of Lords.

Vital Statistics

Worship groups meet at Sonnepuram, Dodegowni palli, Muduguruki, and Kariyachandram.

Church buildings are located at Sonnepuram and Dogedowni palli

Circle of Influence at Dodegowni palli: 6 villages, 500 houses, 1500 people live in this area

- Rev Jackin Isravel

