

Dear friends,

We are back with our busy Fall schedules, as I am sure so are all of you. We haven't quite managed a good routine yet but next week will be more 'normal' so we'll see if that helps! All the boys have had a good start to the new school year. There have been a few changes for them with Jake's entrance into middle school (6th), and Josh's entrance into high school (9th) (I can hardly believe it!) and Daniel (4th) in a school for the first time without any brothers there. David only had to move up a grade (8th) in the same school, so a breeze for him. They are all playing football again, meaning they are all on different teams, with different times and places for practices and games! We are thankful to all love football! A special thanks for praying for a full healing for Jake from his appendectomy. He is doing great and right in there at every football practice. /Thank You, Lord!/ J

John is working on many aspects of the ministry all at the same time as usual. When I talked with him last on the phone he asked specifically that we would pray for the work that is being done paving the road to the SERVE Center land. There is a small group of men from the area that have been coming and interfering with the work being done. The workers will stop and call John to come. When John gets there the group won't come forward and talk with him. The workers begin to work again and then when John leaves the group comes back and the whole thing starts over. It is really slowing the work down and wasting a lot of John's time going back and forth. John said that he is not surprised because this sort of thing always happens when the work is getting done. The evil one does not want the progress. Please pray that the group will leave the workers alone so the work can get done!

Another prayer request that John asked us to specifically pray about concerns the main power company. They need to finish another step of the paperwork and they don't seem to have much interest in helping. John said that he thinks they are finally getting tired of him going to the office every few days (this has been for more than a month!) and hopefully they will do their part soon! Please pray for the electric company to finish all the paperwork that needs to be done soon so the progress can continue!

We are thankful that recently John found some workers that have done a good job in helping with some of the office work he has to do. They have been able to do some translating and entering information on the computer and even getting it sent to me through email! This helps lighten the load and John has more time to spend on all his other responsibilities. Please praise the Lord for these workers and pray that the Lord will provide more capable, sincere people to help in many different areas of the ministries of SERVE India.

The most important way anyone can help is by caring and praying, so we give you many thanks for the vital way you work together with us, all for God's glory! /Thank You Lord! / We couldn't do it without you!

We are always happy to share with you the thoughts of others who have been able to see the work the Lord is doing in India. We've included a letter written by Nate, one of the high school boys, who visited with his brother, Josh, and their father, Pastor Larry, this summer. What a blessing!

His joy and peace, Love, The Nanda's J  
(letter written by Nate Szyman)

'On July 24th, my brother, my dad, and I flew from the Twin Cities airport to Hyderabad, India, making pit stops along the way in San Francisco, Taipei, Hong Kong, and Singapore. I was often taken aback when I would think on the fact that I had been in Taiwan, China, and Singapore. This trip was an amazing opportunity for all of us. Here I will recall many of the highlights of this trip.

In Taipei and Hong Kong, we never saw the outside of the airport, but fortunately our lay-over in Singapore allowed us enough time to go out and explore the city a little bit. It was amazing how clean the city was. But, at the same time, these spotless sidewalks and streets were surrounded in a vast array of amazing flora. While surveying the city, we actually found a building that held Alpha classes just like our church...they even had the same symbol (the guy holding the giant question mark). Unfortunately though, while this city was very sanitary, the rest of the trip would be dominated by unusual smells and unhygienic areas.

We continued through to Hyderabad, and our plane landed late at night. Our hotel was located right near a major intersection, and while at night everything was clear, I was awoken by the sound of car horns and there were people everywhere. I guess that is just life the second most populated country on the planet.

I mentioned earlier that car horns woke me up. A typical Indian driver will probably honk his horn about twenty times during one city block. They do not use the horn as a signal of anger or aggression, however, but for communication. It is as if they are saying, "Here I am. Don't Run Into Me." They need this extra communication because driving in India is crazy. They not only commute in cars on the roads, but there are motorcycles, mopeds, oxen drawing a carriage, many pedestrians, herders moving cattle, and wild dogs everywhere. I was afraid for my life a few times while traveling. John Nanda, however, proved himself very adept at traversing Indian cities.

After a night of rest at a hotel, and a few cold showers, we got on the train for a thirteen hour ride to Vishakhapatnam (Visak for short). I actually found the train to be both comfortable and fun. They had it situated so eight people could sleep in a relatively small area and I discovered that the gentle rocking of the train provided a soothing experience it put me right out. I think I slept about 10 hours on the train.

Though everything so far in the trip had gone well, I was still very nervous about one topic: the food. I, typically, do not fare very well with spicy foods. A steak taco at Chipotle with no added sauce is usually too much for me to handle. I am truly a bland Polish/Finnish boy. So, hearing of India's scalding curries, a little bit of worry set in. However, while we did eat Indian food, we mostly managed to stay clear of the really hot stuff. Still, when we discovered a Pizza Hut in Visak, I was ecstatic. And the joy felt in seeing a Burger King/KFC in the Bangkok airport, I can not even put into words. Unfortunately, we did have a time in which the food got the better of us, as Josh and I both got sick and spent the entire night emptying the contents of our stomachs in more

ways than one. My dad only got about two and a half hours of sleep that night as he was cleaning up after us through out the night.

Despite that night, our time in India was truly remarkable. We visited a zoo where we came within a yard or so of a lion and touched an elephant. We swam in the Indian Ocean, where the waves knocked us off of our feet. How ever cool some of that stuff may seem, though, the most amazing stuff was the work of the Holy Spirit that we witnessed.

India has a social system in which what family you are born into matters more that your actions, more than your work ethic, and more than your personality. These people are stuck in whatever caste they are born into. However, we have seen how God's love gives hope to people of the lowest castes. We saw lepers, who had been disowned by their families and friends, praising God in a way that is rarely seen in our country. Not only have we seen this, but also we saw people of higher caste sacrifice their social status to live for Jesus. These people become untouchable, members of the lowest class just for converting to Christianity. Some states in India even have anti-conversion laws and you could be imprisoned for becoming a Christian. Fortunately, the state of Andhra Pradesh, where Hyderabad and Visak are located has no such laws, although the heavily implied caste system looks down on any who convert.

The longer we stayed with them, the more and more impressed I became with the Nanda family. They all showed so much love for the people of India and for us. I do not understand how John was able to physically do all of the work he did. He does so much for other people, and often casts aside his own needs for those of others. He is the definition of a servant. Terri also went out of her way to make sure things were arranged for us, and always made sure that we had food that we could handle. She also spent a good amount of time cleaning up after us. Their boys, Josh, David, Jake (who was recovering from the removal of his appendix, in an Indian hospital!), and Daniel, graciously sacrificed to us their air-conditioned room and slept out in the heat. Also, when we were traveling, they were often in less-than-comfortable positions while we had a normal car seat. The sacrifices that the entire family showed to us and to the Indian people were inspiring.

In summary, India was amazing, and we were able to witness many daily miracles. Thank you so much for your support of us, for giving us this opportunity, and for helping us to do a small part in reaching the Indian people. The trip would not have been possible with out your generous giving. Thank You.'