

June 2007

PRAYER LETTER

Dear praying friends,

I was sitting here thinking of what to write and I just felt so, so grateful for your prayer and care for us and for all that the Lord is doing through SERVE India. It just could not happen unless we all work together each being obedient to the part the Lord has called us. We are so grateful for you!

We had a really wonderful trip with the team that came this past winter. We were able to visit many Pastors and their churches to encourage them and the work of the ministry there in many ways. The team was great and the trip was full of joy. It is always amazing and wonderful to see how the Lord brings each member of the team and directs each step of the trip in ways we cannot imagine would happen and it works out so wonderfully, to His glory. That is what we pray for and we are so thankful for your prayer, too! ☺ We had a very full trip with medical camps, church openings and dedications, visiting and encouraging. We have included some of the team's thoughts throughout this letter to let you hear a little from their perspective. His joy, Terri ☺

Medical Camps

We were happy to be able to serve the communities of the villages our Pastors are working in with medical camps again. This is always physically helpful to the people and more importantly it helps show the Pastor's heart of care for them and the reason he is there to bring them the Good News for their lives. **Please pray that the churches in these villages would have opportunities to continue to show the Lord's love for the people and many would come to the Truth.**



(Team member Cassidy writes...)

The medical camps were sometimes chaotic but always entertaining. We would get some very serious complaints along with complaints of "when I run I get short of breath." The main ailments were body pain from a lifetime of hard labor and stomach pain from a lifetime of dirty water and spicy foods. These camps really called on the basics of nursing and while at times I felt like I could be doing so much more I was still reminded that what I was doing was enough. It was so humbling to have anyone excited to have me- ME! just as sinful as everyone else, me- pray over them, yet so empowering to know that it could be something really important to someone. It was at times like this that I was grateful that they were not looking to me in this prayer for strength rather looking at Christ through me.

India was dirty, and crowded. I slept with bed bugs, usually had cold showers, and endured more spicy food than I've had thus far in my life. But I also met amazing Christians, saw beautiful country, and most important saw God's amazing, unfinished work in India.

Visit to Jeeva Jalam



It was great to spend some time at Jeeva Jalam in Saluru. They told us they were grateful for the help and comfort we gave to them. They were thanking God for each one of us because we made them feel they are important. The water purifier is working now. We distributed another round of rice and groceries and supplies. Pastor Jacob and Laxman Rao (village and church elder) are working with a government agency to see if there is any grant in aid available from the local MLA to help rebuild their broken homes. We told them as the Lord provides we will partner with the project. **Please pray for their community, for them to continue to feel the care there is for them and that we will see clearly how the Lord wants us to be involved with providing for them.**



(Team member Susan writes...)

The most memorable experience was when we visited the leprosy colony. The elder of the village was on fire for God. Whether he was singing and beating his well worn drum, or praying, every cell in his body was praising our One True God. This village had so little, even in India standards; yet there was so much love and joy present.

It is very difficult for me to put into words my experience in India. I sit here with my head in my hands wondering how to express the wonders that God showed me and allowed me to feel. "Indescribable, uncontainable... you are an amazing God."

Pastor's Training Center



Something new has now come up with the land that the Training Center was first planned to be built upon. They are thinking of that site to be part of the 3000 acres the government is going to acquire for an international airport!!!! They are still in the final stages of deciding the exact area, but they have notified all the land owners in the area that it is a very probable possibility. Well, if it does happen we will definitely understand why we just couldn't seem to get that Training Center built on that land! We will need wisdom in deciding if we should go ahead and build on the land near the ocean like we had decided to do or not. We will not really be able to tell what the area is going to be like until some things move forward with the airport plan. All of the neighbors nearby (whole villages) may be asked to be moved for the airport purposes. Well, the Lord knows, so we will just wait and hear from Him on what our next step should be. ***Please pray that we will hear Him clearly and move in the way He has for us to go.*** Also, we are really praising the Lord for His provision of the Training Center in Tuni! ***Please praise Him that we have the building in Tuni and the plan for a training class to start this Fall! /Thank You, Lord!!***

Tuni Training Center

It was nice for the team that visited to be able to spend some time with about 100 Pastors at the Tuni Training Center. It has turned out to be a more wonderful place than we knew. Every month Pastors gather here for their Pastors Meetings. It serves the Pastors so well. Some Pastors may come during the month just to have a time away from their village to rest and pray.

The first training course will hopefully be started this Fall in this new Tuni location.

Please pray that all of the preparation needed for this will work out easily, arranging many details including helping the teacher and his wife get settled in to their new home at the center.



Interesting Fact: Cows that are dedicated to a Hindu temple are considered 'holy'. They are free to roam as they please, often stopping traffic for a midday nap in the middle of the road. They are often fed by store owners who are hoping for an extra blessing for their nice treatment of the 'god'.

Pastor's Tool Kits Given



The Pastors were happy to receive the materials we had ordered for the Pastors' tool kits. We received three PA systems, drums and dolaks (tribal drums for that area), stands for mics, and more gas lights. We were also to give out 10 First Aid kits with the reference book *Where There Is No Doctor* and other helps. We were so happy to distribute them to those who were waiting for them and they felt so blessed to receive them. Thanks to all of you who have provided for this!

Mountain Village Church

(Team member Rick H. wrote...)

As I was looking at some photos, I came across a picture of the pastor of the mountain village standing in the middle of the church that had been burned. I was so saddened for him and the village, to see the broken and charred remains of the church and the sort of empty stance of the pastor with his hands in his pockets looking straight ahead. I wondered his thoughts? I think that is all of us "broken and charred", but by God's grace we are mended. The church is people not that building. We need to pray for those who set the fire, they are afraid and don't know this Jesus. They need to know! We need to pray for this pastor and for all the pastors to know that there is hope through these trials.



1 Peter 1:3-9

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In

His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil, or fade~kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith~of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire~may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

We are praying to help Pastor Thomas up in the mountains near the Orissa border. The church, which was built only about a year and a half ago, was burned down by a group from a neighboring village. Please pray how we can encourage those believers. Pastor Thomas and the few believers do not seem to be worried what might happen next. They are ready to rebuild the church. They gained a lot of sympathy from leaders in the area. They've been watching how these Christians will react. We would like to help them build a stronger church and put a well in this village. We also hope to put a well in the village from where the group who burned down the church comes from. It will be a great testimony to how the Lord loves and forgives. ***Please pray for Pastor Thomas and the believers to be encouraged and pray for their village and the neighboring villages to see the love and forgiveness of the Lord shine through.***

There are so many things that we pray for the Pastors and their call and vision. We have witnessed how God is using them in these villages. They are the shining light in those dark villages and making the difference in the community, lifting up the name of Jesus above all. There are so many exciting things happening there. God is great. I just want to thank you for your part in the ministry and your faithful prayers and support. I wish more people could understand more and would pray, then more hearts would be moved and more souls would be added to the kingdom. Thank you for all.

In His Service, Pastor John R. Nanda

Barthamma's Home, a Place for Widows

This year we have started to help care for a group of widows who live together in one widow's home, named Barthamma. She has always had a heart for the widows who have been left with no one willing to take care of them, because of the culture's stigma. After she became a widow herself she started to invite them to come and live in her home with her. There are 14 of them now, coming from differing backgrounds and needs. She has been taking care of them as best she can but as the number grew so did her need for help. She heard about SERVE India and asked to meet with Pastor John. Her heart is in the right place, and she has been very open to the Gospel. Pastor John meets with them when he is in town and now Pastor Titus goes regularly to help them, pray for them and encourage them with hope and truth from God's Word. ***Please pray for Barthamma and the other ladies who need to know Jesus. Also please continue to pray for all of the widows who are cared for throughout our SERVE India churches, who continue to have helpful ministries in the church and outreaches in their villages.***



Caring for Children

We are thankful for the opportunity to reach many children who live around the area of the Tuni Training Center. ***Please pray for the right opportunities for these children to be loved and cared for and for them to come to know how much Jesus loves them.*** There are many children who continue to be loved and cared for by several of our Pastors. ***Please continue to pray for each of them and the church family who is helping to care for them, Pastor N. Moses (18), Pastor K.N.Rao (25), and Pastor M. Jacob (25)***

One of the ways that parentless children are taken advantage of is to be forced to work at too young of an age. Some of them are very young. Pastor Salmon Raj has a program for children in this circumstance as a part of the ministry at his church. When they come to live at the center it saves them from that life and they are taken good care of. They are given a good education and there is vocational training for the older children. Most importantly they have the chance to be loved and taught about Jesus. ***Please pray for these children (about 60) and the church family who is caring for them.***



If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution for the

[Ministries of SERVE India](#) (support for pastors, children, widows, training center, special projects)

Make a note in the memo and send the check to:

[SERVE India, 777 Carmichael Lane, Hudson, WI 54016](#)

If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution for

[Nanda Family Support](#) (support for our family's living expenses, including our travel to India)

Write "IM" (India Mission) on the check memo line. Do not put Nanda's name on the check.

Send the check to:

[International Gospel Outreach \(IGO\):](#)

[P.O. Box 1932, Maple Grove, MN 55311-6932](#) (763) 416-4159

(Contributions are solicited with the understanding that IGO has complete discretion and control over the use of all donated funds.)

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Thank-you!