

December 8, 2008

Dear friends,

Merry Christmas! The joyful day is approaching! / Thank You, Father, for the greatest Gift! **Jesus with us!** / We pray that we will keep the meaning of Christmas a part of everything we do this holiday season. **Joy to the World!**

John has not returned from India yet, but we hope he will in this next week. Thank you for continuing to pray for him and the country with all that has been happening recently. Our state of Andhra Pradesh is on the other side of the country from Mumbai so they did not really feel any of that trouble. The airports were on high alert but so far it seems like things are quiet now as far as that goes.

We want to ask you to **continue to pray for Orissa**, though, where it is still very difficult for the believers. John felt so blessed but also saddened last Sunday as he visited a small remote village. It is far back in the forests, where you cannot even get to it by car, only bicycle or motorcycle. More than 100 people have found refuge among this small village. They are families who have fled from their homes, and cannot go back yet. They are living in make-shift tents, and getting along as best they can. There is another village not too far from this one that has the same situation, with about 100 people seeking refuge.

John met 5 women whose husbands are Pastors and have been put into prison. They do not know when or even if they will be released. Many people have been killed and John saw many children who have been orphaned by this tragedy. Churches and houses have been burned down. People are not feeling safe to return to their homes. In many places they are allowed to go back only if they renounce their Christianity and convert back to Hinduism. They are not seeing an end in sight.

They are not without Hope though. **Please pray for these, our dear brothers and sisters, for courage, comfort, perseverance, and provision for their needs, physical, emotional, and spiritual.** John has given help to buy food and other supplies, and has offered our space at the Tuni Training Center as a place for them to stay. The difficulty is the distance between their homes and Tuni and the difference in language. **Please pray for the group of Pastors from Orissa working together with a group of Pastors from Andhra Pradesh to bring awareness among the believers there.**

John said that he was visiting one of our churches on Sunday evening and the Pastor asked the congregation to consider not buying their new pair of clothes for Christmas this year (for most of them the only time they get a new pair of clothes all year), but instead to give the money to help the believers in Orissa.

Please also pray for us believers, here where we are free and have so much, to not ever take such gifts for granted, and to remember to pray for those suffering everyday so they will know that they are not standing there alone. Pray as the Lord uses this for good, for His faithfulness to be seen so clearly, and for many unbelievers to see the Lord and come to Him through this. Thank you, again, for praying!

Now, back to **JOY** for this season... it is because of His coming that we will be with Him again someday! **Glory to God in the Highest!**

His peace and blessings,
Love, The Nandas :)

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, write and send the check to:
SERVE India, 777 Carmichael Road, Hudson, WI 54016

If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution for our personal support (support for our family's living expenses, including our travel to India), it comes from your contributions to
International Gospel Outreach (IGO).

Your gifts are tax-deductible if made payable to International Gospel Outreach only.

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

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

IGO Address: PO Box 1932, Maple Grove MN 55311-6932 (Telephone: 763-416-4159)

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