

March 5, 2009

Dear praying friends,

It seems so long ago that we sent our last e-pray! We asked for prayer for our team trip and we want to say 'Thank you so much for that prayer!' We had a really great trip. We were able to serve the people of India by visiting and encouraging many believers, congregations, widows, and children, providing many gifts of necessities, like clothes and food (and some fun things, too), enjoying together with congregations in their special new church dedication celebrations, rejoicing with many who were baptized, including several from Jeeva Jalem, caring for many unbelievers through medical camps, and, encouraging the suffering, yet hopeful, refugees from Orissa. Of course with all of this, we (the team) were the most blessed and encouraged of all! It always happens this way. /Thank You, Lord! :)/

One of the blessings for me is always time spent with the team. We have been so grateful over the years to have had such great groups of people that go and this year, too! It means so much to have them go and serve and love the people of India, and each other!

We have included thoughts from a few team members below...

Charlotte wrote...

Here are a couple entries from my journal.

"I've commented to a few that the mission trip had a therapeutic affect on me. I contribute that to the behavior of the "core" team. I have never laughed so much in my whole life! and it was so, so good to be able to express my sorrow with tears. I never thought I'd be able to cry again since I had "steeled" myself from getting hurt in life."

At a medical camp....."Neighbors, not affiliated with the church, kept coming, keeping the lines long.

Hindus would bow down before us when we offered to pray. One lady sobbed constantly when I knelt beside her and held her hands to pray. My prayer for her was "Lord, meet the need of her heart and reveal Yourself to her!"

Rick H. shared...

It s been 2 weeks now since our return. As I think back and reflect on our 2 week journey in India, all that we encountered and took part in. A few that stand out: Would I go to India this year? It did not look like it was going to happen. I PRAYED. I was to go. After one of our 1st stops, John asked me to come with him to a home where an 18 year old girl lay in her bed, paralyzed from birth. We PRAYED. Will God heal her? If He so chooses. She does know Jesus. That's the most important issue. We visited widows at a home that cares for them. We sat with them, gave them sari's, listened to them, layed hands on them, and PRAYED. We visited people in the hospital. We went into a ward where the patients are on their death bed. The 1st bed I went to was a 9 or 10 year old girl in a coma, laying there with no one around her. She had malaria. This was hard for me. I PRAYED, and had to leave.

As we drove toward the mountains, the border of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa, I could sense the evil, and darkness, an eeriness or emptiness as we approached. At the refugee camp we listened to the stories, the testimonies, the burdens, the hurt, the loss of

what these people had to go through. What they had to see and endure is tragic and appalling. I cannot imagine going through something like that. I wanted to help them so bad, but what can I do. It made me realize that I can go there and smile, and touch, and hug, give them food, and clothing, words to encourage them, and just love them. What an honor for me to be God's hands and feet, to serve His people there. But we can only do so much. The most important thing that we all can do is PRAY. Only God can bring light in the darkness there. He can heal their brokenness, and their loss. His spirit can work in the hearts of the people being persecuted and in the persecutors. PRAY boldly for these people every day. I know God wants us to come to Him. This trip has convicted me to do just that, PRAY!!

Yes, it's true! We can make a difference for those suffering there with our PRAYER! Please join us in praying for them. Please ***pray that the families will find family members that have been separated from each other.*** In some cases they don't even know if they are still alive. Also, please ***pray as John works out a fair deal for them with a business man who offered them some labor work.*** They would be helping process coconuts for the fibrous material inside. The machinery for that can be brought right to the training center, and seems to be such a provision from the Lord. One of the sadness's for these families is that their children's schooling has been interrupted. Please ***pray that God would send a teacher who speaks their language to give schooling to the children.***

There are many more stories and we would love to share them with you. Our India Dinner and Presentation will be coming up, and we will let you know the date when we know. We are waiting to find out when John will be able to get home. ***Please pray that John will be able to accomplish all he needs and come home soon!*** As always, we are so, so grateful for all of you and we could not do what we do without your partnership with us. Thank you so much and thank you for continuing to pray. All for His glory!

His peace and blessing, 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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