



## India Visitors' Reflections

We had many visitors to India this year. It has been so encouraging for the Pastors and all those who are served. Thank you for your faithful prayer for them. We want to share about SERVE India through some of their thoughts and experiences...

Paul D ...

"After my second trip to India this year, again I am left absorbing all that we saw and experienced. It's hard to pin down one or two highlights as the whole trip was really one big highlight.

The most memorable thing for me was seeing SERVE India's **children's home** on the site of the Tuni Training Center. These 25 or so children are so precious and definitely among the happiest children we saw in India. They are well cared for, physically, educationally, spiritually. I will always remember watching our team playing with the children and how much everyone enjoyed their time together. I have an especially vivid memory of Rick A. playing a patty-cake type game with one cute little girl. Despite her broken English and his non-existent Telugu, they shared time together that was so rich and full of laughter that I know neither one of them will soon forget. I certainly won't forget either."

K Family...

A highlight of the trip was being able to witness the baptism of two women in a small, muddy river. While it is true that Baptism is a monumental moment in every Christian's life, it is hard for us to comprehend just how life changing the decision of baptism is for Indian believers. In some cases it can cause the new Christian to be ostracized by their families and some people have to start their lives over.

We were especially touched by how SERVE India reaches out to the **leprosy population**. We held a medical camp for members of one of two leprosy colonies supported by SERVE India. We also visited and brought supplies to Jeeva Jalem (meaning "Living Waters") which is another leprosy colony. We were reminded of Jesus' words, that whatever we do for the "least of these brothers", we are actually serving our Lord Himself.

Rick H ...

I recall at the Tuni training center, introducing myself to **the new lepers**, shaking hands and asking their names, and just how one guy had a hard time looking at me and shaking my hand, I think because his arm was off at the elbow, and he was embarrassed by it. The others talked him into saying his name and shaking my hand which he did, but I felt sorry for his insecurity of who he perceived himself to be, an outcast, no good to anyone, just no self worth. I pray that by them being there that they felt loved, and that they do have worth. My heart goes out for them.

I think back to all the people we encountered on our venture, that wherever we go, we are surrounded by people that maybe God put in our path. We don't know if it's a 'Hi', or 'Namaste', or the shake of a hand, a smile or whatever it may be, we are a reflection of the God that sent us there. It's cool to make new

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## Note from Pastor John

Dear friends,

Thank God for His protection and provision. We want to thank you for your prayers and faithful support and involvement with us in reaching India for Christ through SERVE India. We very much appreciate it!

This past summer and fall has been a very busy time for me, mostly being with the family and visitors in India visiting many churches, some that have newly started, speaking, teaching, holding meetings and conferences and supervising construction.

Many churches that are working with SERVE India are growing in numbers and expanding in their outreach opportunities. It seems that there is always so much to do as the Kingdom advances. Praise God!



## India Visitors' Reflections continued

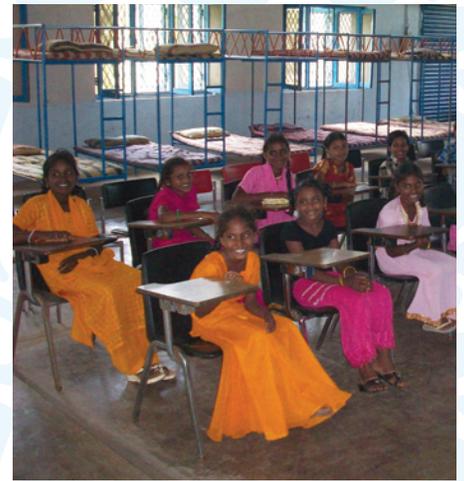
friends in a foreign country, both sides trusting and giving to each other, it's just another relationship started. We don't know their beliefs or anything, but it might just open another door. I have come to believe that it's the little things that have big significance in others' lives.

Rich...

'Our first stop was a small church on the outskirts of Tuni. We were greeted by the Pastor and his wife and a few of the church members. A lot of the members moved to the land around the church to be closer. They all put their money together and bought the land and built huts on the land. The surrounding people there are Hindus and they don't like the Christians. They burned down all the hut homes to get them to leave. The government stepped in and actually gave money to the people to rebuild their homes. With the money from the government and help from Terri and John's organization, they were able to build some small cement dwellings so they can't be burned down.

We visited with them in the church and a man came to us and asked if he could sing a song for us. He said he is not good at speaking to people, but he could tell his story through song. He sang this beautiful song that he had written about his path to God. He was a drug

abuser and was dying from what he had done to his body for so many years. The pastor heard of this man in failing health and came to him to pray for him. He sat and prayed for this sick man day and night, and slowly this man got better and better. A miracle in many peoples eyes that not only did he live but is well. The man sang his song to us with so much emotion and conviction it was hard not to well up and cry. He held his Bible so tight and put it to his cheek and a comfort would come over his face. A very moving experience...After a few swallows to get the lump out of my throat, I thanked him for his song. We said our goodbyes and proceeded on our way.'



## Interesting Fact

In India, an individual afflicted by leprosy is completely shunned by society. This means that every member of the family - even those that are healthy - are treated as outcasts. Their children can't attend school, and it is impossible to find work. Even if they receive treatment and are cured, they will always bear the stigma. The children in the above picture are strong and healthy yet live in a leprosy colony.

## Mining Project

While the team was in India in January they had a chance to visit an area that we have a new group of Pastors working. Previously John had been invited to speak in one of the churches and after the service a group of 14 families asked him for special prayer. They are mining families and because they are Christians they have been sorely taken advantage of. They are in a very difficult situation and we would really like to help them somehow. Please pray that they would be able hold firm to their faith and continue to seek the Lord's help and that we would know clearly how the Lord would like us to be involved. The area does not have many churches and we feel very happy for the chance to help reach more people with our message of Truth, which brings love, freedom, and true life!

This small community of believers have been farming their land for many generations. Now that they have discovered

granite there they have been taken advantage of by the business men in the town. Since they are Christians no one would stand up for them even though they have been treated very badly. Now they could even lose their land and then they would be left with nothing for their families, no homes, no jobs.

Our hope is to be able to help them get established on their own in the business so they will not have to be dependent on dishonest men. Pastor John has already helped them with the first steps of this process and now he needed to be back in India for a short time to help them with the next step. Please pray for a few good men to come along side and help the people and that they could learn the process well. Thank you for your prayer!

## Visits with the Children and Widows

We visited the **Children's Home run by Pastor Solomon Raj** and did a craft with those 75 children and then happily handed out gift bags to those very happy little boys and girls. We also visited one **widow's home and brought a few gifts** for them.

Wherever we went we were always hoping to encourage these dear people, and, as always we were encouraged and so blessed ourselves! That is the way the Lord works! Thank You, Lord!

Please pray for all of the people that we visited with that they will know that the value we see in them and the love we have for them is only a small example of what the Lord is like. Please pray that they will know Him and His love more and more!



## Projects to Encourage and Support Pastors

### Pastors Conference

Pastors came together for a 3 day family conference in our Training Center in Tuni. We had a great time of fellowship and learning together. We had around 150 Pastors and some of them brought their wives and children. We had invited all of their families in hopes of giving them a special time of encouragement. We did have a really fun time playing with the children who came and we handed out our PK Gift bags to all of the children who were there. We handed others out to the Pastors to take home for each of their children. It was really a blessing to see the bright smiles of the children and the parents receiving the bags! Thank you so much to all of you who helped with those 600+ gifts! :)

### 'Tool Kits'

We also provided about 40 Pastors with 'tool kits' that include a new bicycle, gas light, PA system, first aid kit and musical drum. We also provided each Pastor with a Telugu Bible Commentary Set. For those who cannot read and whose villages are illiterate, we provided a megavoice, which has 360 Telugu audio lessons and commentary from the Bible. We also gave 1000's of Bibles, Gospels and tracts for all the Pastors to distribute.

### Prayer Requests!

#### Projects to be praying for...

- ✧ Addition for the children's home for dormitory space and classrooms
- ✧ Finishing the building of the homes in Jeeva Jalem (leprosy colony)
- ✧ Finishing the homes in Pastor N. Rao's village
- ✧ Putting in the wells in the mountain village and their neighboring village
- ✧ Building of Pastor Thomas' church in the mountain village
- ✧ Helping suffering believers' families in the mining community

#### Continuous prayer for...

- ✧ Christian believers and missionaries who are living under great persecution, especially in Orissa, and for their witness to declare loudly the love and provision of our Lord.
- ✧ Godly Indian men to join John and the Pastors in serving the Lord through SERVE India (and especially for an assistant for John, who needs good English skills along with a great heart for God and the ministry)

Thank you for praying!



# Medical Training

We conducted a training seminar for 40 Pastors in community health evangelism that provides practical tools and basic knowledge in diseases, prevention and treatment. It is most helpful for those who are working in a village without any medical clinics.

## **Pastor G. Philip, a pastor of a church with 55 believers in a tribal village shared,**

“We are praying for 1000’s of people in our village who do not know God. Many worship Hindu idols that cannot do anything for them, except take from them. People who live here live in a very primitive situation, suffering from the lack of basic things in life including clean water and good nutrition, and fighting infection. People constantly suffer with gastronomical issues because of contaminated water, food, and poor hygiene and sanitation. Our village is 3 hours away from any medical aid or pharmacy. Over the years we have seen little kids die from things like a high fever or women die as they give birth on the way to the hospital. We prayed to God and many times He

spared their lives. As we share with these people how they can have eternal life in Heaven, we tell them that God loved us with an abundant life in Him. We desire to share that love with others. That was my desire and prayer for my people.

I was excited when I heard Brother John announce in our Pastors Fellowship about a Christian Health Evangelism Training. Along with another 40 Pastors like me I attended the training. We have learned many things. I was enlightened and educated in the health issues, the basic disease treatment and prevention, hygiene, and how to help people with their emotional, social, and spiritual problems. It was a profitable seminar as I received much valuable information and resource materials as well as receiving a first aid kit and pharmaceutical box, which will be resupplied as we need it. I thank God for His provision. We thank God for the teachers, John L. and Mr. P., who went through a great deal of preparation to equip us. I also enjoyed the fellowship and time together with the other pastors.”

What a joy it is to support these Pastors that God has brought to us for His purpose. Most of these men have a huge work load because they are responsible for more than one village church. They are taking the Gospel to people who are waiting to hear. What a joy it is to see wherever the Word is preached that lives are changed, families strengthened, the community transformed and God is glorified!

Thank you, as always, for your part with us in the Lord’s work through SERVE India. Thank you so much for your prayer and the many ways that you care for us, the believers, and the lost! We pray you have a wonderful Merry Christmas and joyful new year!

His great joy and blessings!  
Love, The Nandas



3 John 1:7-8 says,  
‘For they went out for the sake of the Name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. Therefore we ought to support such men, so that we may be fellow workers with the Truth.’

To make a tax-deductible contribution for the ministries of SERVE India (support for pastors, children, widows, training center, special projects)  
Write the ministry in the memo  
Send the check to:  
SERVE India, 777 Carmichael Lane, Hudson, WI 54016

To make a tax-deductible contribution for our personal income (support for our family’s living expenses, including our travel to India)  
Write IM (India Missions) in the memo - Do not put Nanda’s name on the check.  
Send the check to :  
International Gospel Outreach (IGO):  
IGO Address: 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).



**SERVE India**  
Reaching the Unreached

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