

Reflections from the President

Dear partners and friends,

Greetings! I want to thank you again for your friendship, faithful prayers and financial partnership. Today there is a great spiritual awakening in India. In the midst of persecution, and internal struggles between hopeless religions, many people are turning to the only true source of hope and change, Jesus. It is harvest time, and so AIM is doing everything we can to maximize our efforts to reach the lost of India. Let me give some ministry updates:

Children's Home:

Our number one objective is the children. We strongly believe the children are the future, and if given an education, and building a life founded on the gospel, they will be able to impact their culture for Christ more deeply than we ever could. With your gracious help through sponsoring a child, many now have hope for attending college, and several have expressed a desire to enter the ministry. Further on in this newsletter you will read of our plans to begin a building fund to provide a life for another 100 children.

Church planting:

In the last seven years the number of church plants has doubled. Yet, that is an average of only 8 churches per year. There are many thousands of villages without a Christian witness in Andhra Pradesh alone. Our goal over the next five years is to plant another fifty churches, and provide Bibles to all new converts by God's grace and through your generous support.

Leadership development:

With the increasing growth in church planting, and the requirement for Biblically grounded pastors, there is a tremendous need for pastoral training. That is why AIM is calling for current or retired pastors with a heart for teaching the scriptures to come to India to help train pastors in the field. Eventually, we want to establish a Bible School in Tenali to train the next generation of pastors.

How important are you to us?

Your regular prayers and continued financial support are so crucial for the ministry of AIM. All that is happening in the ministry is because of your care and the grace of God. Therefore, you are in our prayers daily. Each dollar you send to AIM is multiplied in India 45 times!

Once again, I thank you for your financial partnership. May the Lord continue to bless you, and guide you as you seek to honor Him daily. Please let us know how we can pray for you. We value your requests as you value the ministry of AIM in India and around the world.

In His service,

Russ Sharrock



Children's Home



Church Planting



Leadership



God's Life Jacket

By Queena Dickey

A few weeks ago, during my time with God, I had a revelation. You see, God has given me a task and a promise to go along with that task. But, I began to catch myself thinking “if this happens” and “if that happens”. God asked me one question--- “Have I given you any reason to doubt me?”

That question hit me like a ton of bricks. You know, God said something—but like a responsible adult, I gave myself room for the “what ifs” and the “maybes”. I began to ask myself: Is that truly faith?

Hebrews 11:1 says “Now faith is being sure of what we hope and certain of what we do not see.” I began to realize that this isn't just a reference to Christ, salvation and heaven, but to all promises of God, even the personal ones. Matthew 19:14 came to mind over and over —“Jesus said, Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”

What was it that Jesus liked so much about children and how did that apply to my faith? God helped me remember my own childhood to answer this question.

When I was a little girl in India, I hated church services. I was in a Catholic family and they tend to have long services and hold them often. I was one of those that sat towards the back of the children's section. Then, while everyone became preoccupied with the services, I quietly slipped out through the window and played outside, and then sometimes returned before it was over. (Yes, I was quite the devious mischief maker.)

But, when I ended up in the Hindu orphanage, suddenly, my Christianity became very important to me. Perhaps, it was my attempt to hold onto my mother or my own identity. Whatever the reason, I held onto it. I didn't know very much, only that there is one God. I knew the nativity story, and I knew that God heard prayers.

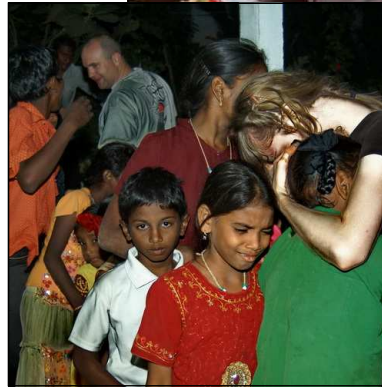
I tried to get the orphanage director to let me go to church with some of the Christian ayahs, but that door slammed in my face. I was so furious I decided to start my own church. I met with the other children and told them the few stories I knew about Jesus. We wrote letters to God, asking for specific things we wanted when we got adopted. (I wanted a Christian family and a sister.) We put the letters on a low awning of the roof and I told the other kids that the Holy Spirit would come in the form of a dove and take those letters back up to God.

When I remembered this, I felt ashamed. Why was it that, as a child with very little knowledge of God, I put my entire trust in Him--- enough to boldly defy the Hindu living standards around me? But when I became a woman, with more knowledge of God, and the power of the Holy Spirit living within me, I began to make room for the “maybes”, “what-ifs”, and “just-in-cases”. Isn't that a little turned around?

What about you? Has God made you a personal promise that you are waiting for? Do you put “childish” faith in that, holding onto it with all your being? Or has your faith “grown-up” and “adultified”? By the way, God did give me a Christian family and a sister as requested, and so much more.

These days, I'm waiting on God to fulfill a few promises. And since that faith lesson, I have tried to recapture my childish grip on the promises of God. Everyday, I have to make a choice to eliminate the what-ifs and maybes. The fact of it is that if God says it, He means it. He is still very much a God who fulfills His promises.

I said there were two reasons to tell you the above story. The second reason is a reminder to those who sponsor the children through AIM. When you support your child, you provide them with not only the physical necessities but an opportunity to drop the seed of God into their hearts. Some of them may very well be like me--- not particularly interested at the moment. But it's there, buried deep. When nothing else makes sense around them, they will hang on to the love of God like a child clings to its mother's skirt. I want you to remember that when you support a child, you provide more than basic physical and spiritual needs, you provide God's life jacket.



2010 Mission Trip

By Alice Sharrock

What an adventure! God really does amazing things when we follow Him beyond the limits of everyday life. This was the first Team we took with us—many had never before been out of the USA. In a way, it was a baptism by fire. The slums of Hyderabad, the insane traffic on the long highway to Tenali, ever-present drifts of garbage, constant noise, smells, poverty, heat, colors, sights, shrines and temples began to overwhelm even those of us who had been here many times before. Cringing, gasps, hands covering eyes as the crowded van lurched onward....

But the goal was worth it—46 children awaiting us at The Home. And 105 total for VBS. Brother Joe Day of Southside Baptist, Stillwater coached us in *The Wordless Book*, which tells the Gospel story by using colors. The disciplined children were a delight. It was wonderful to see the older children gently helping the younger ones. Pastor Johnpaul's team of interpreters worked in tandem with us to explain the Word of God. Songs, crafts, the Gospel story, and crazy games reinforced the message of each day: Gold crowns speak of Heaven, where God lives; Black tells about the sin in our lives that keeps us from Him; Red means the Blood of Jesus that brings us back to God; White is how clean our souls are when Jesus is in our hearts; and Green shows how we grow and flourish like a palm tree. The teaching tools crossed language and cultural barriers easily and effectively.

Evenings were filled with evangelistic meetings in a Hindu neighborhood, or with some of the 60 pastors of Johnpaul's ministry, or with the children at the Home. We spent Sunday in the local church, the men, with words of encouragement for our Christian brothers, and the ladies wearing saris with their Indian sisters.

We learned a difficult fact on this trip—the Children's Home is bursting at the seams! 46 children in two dorm rooms are stretching the limits. We need to build a new Home for at least 100 children. Our vision is a two-story building with bunk beds in large dorms, staff quarters, kitchen, dining room, and space for vocational training so the children will have skills to support themselves and their families in adulthood. The land is there; so are more children roaming alone on the streets. This is an urgent need. We have started a Building Fund and would like you to prayerfully consider helping us financially to reach our goal of \$50,000.

The hardest part of the trip was leaving. The children had become attached to us, and we were in love with them. Many tears were shed as we loaded up for the overnight ride back to the airport. The colorful beaded bracelets will always remind these children of the Gospel story. The memories of their faces—eager to learn about life and God's love—will bring us back again next year. India is in the center of God's heart. And it will always be in ours.

Thanks to all our prayer partners for your love and support! You are part of the Team!

Praises and Prayers

How to Pray Specifically for God's Work in India

Mission: Pray that our strategy to share the message of Jesus in every village will be fruitful.

Safety: Pray for the safety and security of our national partners, the Children's home, and the 60 pastors of the new church plants.

Persecution of Christians: Pray that believers will stand firm in their faith in the face of persecution.

Churches: Pray for the effective planting of churches in villages that don't yet have a Christian witness.

Finances: Pray that God continues to provide the financial support for abandoned children, the building of a new 100 bed Children's Home, planting new churches, training pastoral leadership and providing Bibles.

Partners: Pray that many more partners from around the world will invest financially, physically, and prayerfully in the work of Asia International Mission.

How You Can Help

Sharing the Vision with your Church or Group

Church Service - Invite Russ to speak at your church service (from 15 minutes to 1 hour) and take up an offering for Asia International Mission

Small Group / Bible Study - Invite Russ to share the vision of AIM, give people an opportunity to ask questions, and invite them to invest in the ministry.

Dinner / Dessert Party - Invite your friends over to your house to introduce them to Russ, listen to the vision, and invest in the ministry.

Key Contacts - Help Russ meet a "key contact" who might be interested in furthering the mission of Asia International Mission (pastor, key leader, or business person).

Your Next Step

If you're interested in hosting an AIM sharing opportunity, please contact us so that we can possibly book Russ to attend.
Call 405-564-0616 or aimission@hotmail.com

God is using **YOU** to reach the souls of India!



Featured Child

Rathna Kumar (at left) is one of the sponsored boys at the Children's Home—a prime example of how the love of Christ and a committed sponsor can change a life. He is 14, and a young man of integrity, trustworthiness and responsibility. He helps Pastor Johnpaul with evangelism meetings in unreached villages, helps purchase supplies for the Home, and is protective of the other children. When Alice was walking on the grounds one night (due to swollen legs from the flight), the guard dog began to bark. A figure appeared in the door of the Boys' Dorm, and then came out to investigate. It was Rathna, making sure who was entering the grounds and why...

He met for an interview with his sponsor during the Mission Trip. After answering questions about his life, his goals and his little brother Venkatesh, this young man asked his sponsor how he could pray for her. This was touching in a youth who rose from poverty and hopelessness just a few years ago. He is one of the many reasons we know God has called us to raise up a generation for Him in India—the new **Leaders of Tomorrow**.

**Please pray about one child whose life you can change for one dollar a day.
Invest in the future of India, and the Kingdom of God.**

Visit our website to sponsor an abandoned child: www.aimission.org