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Asian Encounter

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News from Asia International Mission

www.aimission.org

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Reflections from the President

Dear Friends and Partners,

These are difficult times we live in. In America, we are struggling with the consequences of decisions made by our leaders and by the individuals of this nation. For us there are, potentially, some major life changes requiring adjustments to what we have always known to be. In India, the people continue to struggle with the same everyday issues they've had for thousands of years: Severe poverty, major health problems caused by a lack of pure water and poor nourishment, and a class system that prevents even modest gains in their standard of living.

This month I want to call on each of you to begin a new season of prayer. I ask that you would begin praying that we would see a new movement, and demonstration of the power of the Holy Spirit, in both this nation and India among the hearts of the people. That God would work through us to make this His greatest hour.

In India the percentage of believers has not changed since the early 1940's, and so there is much work to be done. Each day thousands are dying without the saving grace of the Lord Jesus Christ in their hearts. But through Christ there is hope. Missionary William Carey once said, "Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God." God desires to equip us perfectly for what He wants us to do, and he invites us to come "boldly" to Him for the grace and mercy necessary in a time of need (Hebrews 4:16).

In the days ahead, through our website and Facebook page, I will be telling you more about the plans I believe God has revealed to me about future mission trips and this ministry. With your continuing prayers, and financial help, I believe we will see a fresh new movement of the Holy Spirit across the face of India.

"In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence." Ephesians 3:12

In His service,

Russ Sharrock



Pastor Johnpaul's Visit in July

Our India Partner, Pastor Johnpaul Pinapati of "Favour the Helpless Mission", will be in the USA for two weeks in early July. This will be an exciting time for us, being able to share the vision and needs of south India through the eyes of an Indian pastor. And, an exciting time for Johnpaul to renew friendships and make new ones. This year, his young son Joshua John will accompany him for a first visit to America.

If your church or group would like to schedule Johnpaul and Russ to share about what God is doing in India, call AIM today! We would love to introduce you to life in India, its culture, its challenges, its response to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our numbers are: 405.564.0616 or 405.762.2471.

India is the second most populous nation on earth, with over 1200 unreached people groups. All work being done there currently cannot keep up with the exploding population growth. The fields are indeed white unto harvest—join our team of prayer and support partners so AIM can continue working where God has called us—alongside local Christians. Or, join a Mission Team and experience it for yourself!

Join the adventure—risk it all for God—or help us with your committed prayer and gifts.

Be part of what God is doing among the nations!

A Million Times Better

By Ashley Baker

As soon as I stepped foot onto Indian soil, I knew there was no other place I'd rather be. I knew God had called me to the mission field since I was ten years old. Five years later I found out that meant, specifically, India. It amazes me how God had been preparing me for this trip for about 2 years now. I think I'm finally starting to learn my lesson, and that is to trust Him.



Getting to India was no easy feat. I faced a problem common to most people who go on mission trips, which is finances. Raising around \$2000 dollars in about 4 months was definitely not an easy task. There were so many times when I thought I couldn't raise that much money; I couldn't handle the physical discomforts, the food, the heat. I couldn't possibly be the right person for this trip. I couldn't, I couldn't. I couldn't. God most definitely taught me a lot about trusting Him those five months He spent preparing me for the trip and those two weeks we were away. And as a bonus, He provided above and beyond in ways that I most certainly never expected. In the literal sense of it not being easy to get to India, we were stuck in Oklahoma City for 3 days because of the snowstorm. Of course we were all upset that we couldn't fly out on time, but those three days,

God knew, were so invaluable to us as a team.

I had been out of the country three times before this, but I was still not prepared for the sights of India. I thought I had seen poverty, but in reality, I had not. Little shanty towns, kids digging through garbage piles with a wheelbarrow, and Hindu funeral processions were all things that tore my heart. After seeing such things, it was so refreshing to see all the sweet faces of the kids at the Children's Home. These beautiful kids are such amazing people. They have been through so much; their parents deserting them, living on the streets, taking care of themselves, and yet they are so joyful and wise beyond their years. Seeing their smiles after they finished their craft or seeing us demonstrate silly games was worth every second I spent working and every penny I spent to get there.

Going on a mission trip is usually not an easy task. India is definitely not for the faint of heart. Obstacles will always come in your way: finances, physical discomforts, time issues. Jesus said in Luke, “*Any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.*” Are you willing to give up hot showers, air conditioning, and two weeks of your life to do something glorious, to minister to “the least of these”? I strongly encourage you to consider joining with us and experiencing it for yourself. You won’t regret it.

I love these words, by Andy Kampman; “Don’t be OK with the Christian American Dream.” Living in India for two weeks is no vacation; it’s most definitely not like living the American Dream. No, it’s a million times better.

“Jewels of India” Fundraiser

By Alice Sharrock

Our April 17 Event in Stillwater, OK was a great success: Local businesses donated merchandise, and we had gorgeous saris and jewelry direct from India. Live Hindi Christian music set the mood, complemented by the spicy aroma of authentic Indian foods from local restaurants and international groceries—plus homemade delights from ladies of Hillcrest Baptist Church. It was our Kickoff for raising money to build a second Children’s Home in India—the first one is already overflowing with 46 little ones.

Our theme “**Jewels of India**” refers to the precious little children, starving for both food and affection, who live in the Children’s Home. Our purpose is to raise a generation of leaders who will impact their own culture for Christ; in order to do this, **we need your partnership** to provide food, clothing, safe shelter, medical care and education for these young people. 3 more were sponsored due to the Fundraiser. Several more children need sponsors like you—and it’s only \$30 per month to change a life, and possibly the whole local culture out of poverty and illiteracy into what Jesus would want: Healthy, bright, hopeful people who live to spread The Kingdom of God, both now and when He returns.

In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost. Matthew 18:14

Our Goal is \$50,000. This will build a 2-story Home with Boys’ Dorm, Girls’ Dorm, Staff Quarters, Kitchen & Dining Area, plus Vocational Training Space.

Go to our website www.aimission.org & help us reach our Building Fund goal!

Please pray about what God wants you to do

Just 50 people giving \$1000 will change the lives of hundreds of children forever!



Featured Child—Kazia



Kazia is 6 years old and studying in the 1st Standard—a tiny little girl with an impish grin. Her father died when she was 4 years old. In south India, there are virtually no jobs for women, so her mother went door to door, begging to wash dishes in return for leftover food to survive.

Kazia and her widowed mother were often sick from spoiled food, and one of Johnpaul's Pastors saw her pitiful condition. He brought Kazia to The Children's Home where she is provided with food, clothing, medical care, education and learns about Jesus.

**Please pray about sponsoring one child—one 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 or destitute child: www.aimission.org

Praises and Prayers

How to Pray Specifically for God's Work in India

Mission: Pray that our **October Trip** will be fruitful: We will be working with the Children again; doing village evangelism with Pastor Johnpaul and his Team; digging a pure water well; visiting new areas; and continuing to build relationships with non-believers

Persecution of Christians: Just west of where we work, there is a thrust to eliminate all Christian influence. Christians are being severely persecuted and "reconversion" events put pressure on entire communities to crush the Gospel completely.

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

Help Us Provide Bibles for all the Children: It's our deep desire to provide each child in the Children's Home with his or her very own New Testament in their own language. This has extra meaning to a child who has nothing in this world to call his own. 46 children time \$2 equals \$92 needed.

We also want to provide more Bibles throughout the area. A Telugu Bible costs \$4; Large Print Bibles for the elderly cost about \$6 each. Please help us give this gift of eternal significance!

Early to Mid July: If your church or group would like to schedule Pastor Johnpaul and Russ to share about what God is doing in India, call AIM today! We would love to introduce you to life in India, its culture, its challenges, its response to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our numbers are: 405.564.0616 or 405.762.2471.

God is using YOU to reach the souls of India!