

Those of you who have been receiving this newsletter since we began publishing it in 1967, will remember the Pillai family that were members of the church while we lived in Karachi, Pakistan. He worked for the British Overseas Bank and after retirement the family immigrated to their ancestral home in south India. Brother Peter Pillai, who passed some years ago, was of great help to me when I first came to work in India in 1986. He wife Esther is still living and is ninety. She lives with Ruby in Angie Greene Hall at the Bible school.

On August 16th Megan flew about 1,800 miles from Tamil Nadu to Guwahati in the northeast to teach another group of young women. These sisters are from the Karbi Bible Institute (KBI) where Joysingh Ingthi is the principal, which is about 120 miles from where NBI meets in the little town of Mirza. In order to be present for the first class on medical training on Wednesday the 17th at Mirza they had to travel by bus much of the night. There are 22 of them including three teachers. You will be pleased to know that one young woman who graduated from NBI on the 30th of July, whose name is Priscilla, is now serving as a teacher in the Karbi school, and translated for Megan. One of the major reasons for having these girls learn the techniques for first aid is that so many of them come from villages that are hours from medical help. One of the Karbi girls said that it is a six hour walk from her village to a doctor. Speaking of Megan's service here I should mention we appreciate those brothers and sisters in the church at Alkire Road, who contributed in order that she was able to buy medical supplies for the girls. She bought each a "doctor's bag" and filled it with first aid paraphernalia.

A CORRECTION : In the June Newsletter there was an inadvertent report concerning Bible schools we are conducting here in India. Here is the report, "*Scott Richards, Don Iverson and I, are, by the help of God, conducting such Bible schools in six states, Arunachal Pradesh, Naga Land, Assam, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nada, but what we are able to do (see below) hardly touches "the hem of the garment."* This report doesn't present the complete picture and in doing so it leaves off the true activities of brother Iverson's work. I mean the above statement should not have included his name. For it included a chart that said that we were blessed in that there are 98 schools with a total enrollment of 997. That is, brother Scott and I are working with 89 evening schools with 664 brothers enrolled and 9 full time schools with 192 brothers and 141 sisters enrolled in them for the total of 997. The slighting of Don Iverson in that report is that he has 80 different schools going on separately from the above with 806 enrolled. Now before I go any further with this amended report; let me say this, there is a story told about a boy going with his father hunting. When they returned, the boy with enthusiasm told the rest of the family that they had killed a bear, then he said, "Papa shot it." I mean by this, that the two American brothers named above and I know that we are here guiding this work, but it is being carried on by God-fearing and sound native brothers and sisters in Christ. Not only so, but what we are doing would not be possible without those of you at home who support it through your prayers and gifts. To God be all the glory both now and forevermore. Thank you.

In Christian love,

Jim E. Waldron

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INDIA OBSERVES ITS 69TH YEAR OF INDEPENDENCE



A trading company, known as the British East India Company, was formed by private individuals in England in 1600. Their aim was to have quiet peaceable trade for spice and tea, but with rivals from Portugal, France and others it was not to be so peaceable. A severe struggle went on for more than a century, then in 1773 the British government began to gradually take over India from the company; later in 1858 it took direct control and ruled India as a colony until August 15, 1947.

Thus each year Indians celebrate their independence on that date. In light of the words of the Holy Spirit by the pen of the apostle Peter, "*Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king*" (1 Peter 2:17, NKJV); and considering Paul's statement in Romans 13:1-5 about civil government being God's servant to control criminals, we pay respect to the government here. Note the picture where the students and staff of the Northeast Bible Institute did just that on their independence day. Some neighbors also attended. I spoke with translation into Hindi. My subject was the three institutions put in this world by God Himself, 1) the home (Genesis 1:28; 2:21-24); 2) Civil government (Romans 13:1-5) and the church of Christ (Matthew 16:16-19; Romans 16:16), which is the kingdom of Christ and God (Ephesians 5:5; Colossians 1:13).

THE NORTHEAST BIBLE INSTITUTE (NBI)



As I have mentioned before NBI is the only English medium school that we have in the country. It was begun in 2002 and the first class to graduate was in 2004. The students study the scriptures for two years with 22 hours a week in class. Classes begin each morning at 6:00 with a break for morning food from 8:30 to 9:30 with classes again from 9:30 to 11:30. In the afternoons they study tailoring and computers. For those who want to get their high school diploma we provide tutoring to prepare them for that exam; if they have their HS diploma we help them to begin their college studies by correspondence. With the twelve graduates in the picture our total number of graduates from NBI over the past twelve years has grown to 170.

OTHER GRADUATIONS

By the help of God and your blessed kindness toward this work this was the fifth graduation to take place among all our schools this year. The first two as I reported in February involved evening school students on January 29th and 30th. The one on the evening of the 29th was held in the state capital of Tamil Nadu, Chennai. The one on Saturday evening the 30th was held across the Stateline in Andhra Pradesh. Altogether on those two nights 125 brothers received their diplomas in Bible for their three years of hard work, three hours each evening, three nights a week. On April 30th in the Tamil Nadu Bible Institute near Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu there were twelve young men and twenty-eight young women to graduate after two years of training. On Saturday May 7th, 1,500 miles to the northeast of Coimbatore the Karbi Bible Institute in Diphu, Assam, where Joysingh Ingthi is the principal, four men and three women graduated after two years of work. Thus the total of those who have graduated this year so far is 184; which includes 149 brothers and 35 sisters. All praise to our God

and Father for these young people who are becoming well trained laborers for the kingdom and for service to Christ.

DEVELOPING STUDENTS

At NBI virtually all students are from small towns or villages, and, as in other parts of India, jobs are very scarce; thus we try to help the students develop themselves in practical ways to carry on their lives. Already, along with the 22 hours per week in Bible, we are teaching them tailoring, computers, growing broilers and planting a garden. A new project now is to teach them how to care for a laying flock. This too is a practical project as it not only supplies the students skills to care for hens, but will provide eggs for the school table. We give each student an egg everyday to put protein in their diet, which means we need ninety dozen a month.

In the picture you see a small house which was built for egg laying hens. It was built by one of our guest teachers, Bryan Pitts, a gospel preacher from Woodbury, TN. He preaches for the Midway church of Christ, which meets on state highway 53s, which runs between Woodbury and Manchester, TN. Brother Pitts comes every year for a month to teach in the school. This year he was here in August to teach 1st and 2nd Timothy and Titus, with special emphasis on the qualification of elders. This is his twelfth time to be with us as a guest lecturer. His wife's name is Alysia, who is librarian at Woodland Elementary in Cannon Co. They have a son, Gunter, who is 11, and a daughter named Hannah, who is 8. This brother is truly a "tent making preacher" as Paul described himself (Acts 18:3; 20:34). He has worked 28 years as a carpenter for Odom Construction Company in Woodbury. It is a great blessing that the owners of that company allow him off to aid us in this work of training faithful disciples to teach others; we appreciate them for doing so. The student in the picture with Bryan is L.K. Mung. The boxes on the side are nests to be covered with lids when the little house is finished that can be raised to allow someone to collect the eggs. This brother illustrates the kind of men who are needed on the mission field; for not only has he built the house for laying hens, but he has taught a number of our students carpentry skills.



MEGAN PHILLIS

You may recall earlier this year, in February as I reported, Mark Bass and his wife Joanne came from the Alkire Road congregation in Grove City, Ohio to teach in the school (NBI) here in Mirza. Joanne taught the women and Mark, not only taught a Bible course, but he being an avid gardener also instructed the students in gardening. Along with them was the young woman named Megan Phillis, who is 26, a zealous soul winner, and a registered nurse, who works in the Doctors Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. While here she spent the month teaching a first aid and first responder course 4.5 hours a day for four weeks to our young women in NBI. In that class she had fourteen students and staff. At the end of February she with Mark and Joanne returned to the States. Hardly had Megan gotten back on American soil, when she said I am ready to go back. To illustrate the enormous good that this young woman is able to do, one needs to realize how seldom do we have woman, who are so skilled as she is, to come to the field to do that which a man rarely has the aptitude to do.

Knowing the great good she accomplished back in February in teaching these young women from various villages across the Northeast I phoned her in late April or May and asked her if she could come again this year to teach in other places where we have women studying. She said I will see if I can get off, even though this time she had no leave days to use as she had in February; yet her supervisor graciously granted her the time. Thus she came again to teach in two different locations. After arriving on August 4th she began teaching at our school for your women in the Tamil Nadu Bible Institute (TNBI), which is located in the deep south of the country in a village called, Chettipalayam, Tamil Nadu.

Not only did she teach the students, but she taught the school staff and seven house mothers from the orphan home just next door which is cared for by Don and Cathy Iverson through the work and efforts of many Tamil brothers and sisters. One thing that was new for Megan was that she had to speak through a translator, who is Ruby Pillai. Ruby is pictured 3rd from the left in front row.



FIRST AID CLASS BY SIS. MEGAN (AUG.5-13, 2016), CHETTIPALAYAM, CBE