

costs about \$135.00. We can build for about \$28.50 a square foot. Thus a building of 560 square feet will cost \$15,960 and we can add restrooms for another \$2,200.00. This work is expanding so very fast that it is difficult to keep abreast of it. For example the number of students is growing at the home for the blind and deaf and this will bring a need for more housing there; but more on that later. Please help as you can.

SCHOOL REOPENS IN KERALA

The three elders from the Palakad church in the state of Kerala came to meet me at the school in Chettipalayam. Kerala is the southern state that shares peninsula India with Tamil Nadu. It is one of India's smaller states yet it has a population of 35,000,000. Tamil Nadu, which is four times as large as Kerala has a population of 74,000,000. We sponsored a school of preaching in the state from 2001— 2012 when it closed. However, it will reopen beginning the 1st of September. We are happy that these brothers have taken up the challenge to re-open their school. This, by the grace of God, means that we will be training disciples in 6 states of India.

As the apostle ordered, *“And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also”* (2 Timothy 2:2).

VALLIE'S ORDEAL

The young woman in this picture is blind and is thirty-four years old. About ten years ago she attended the home for the blind and deaf in Pudukkottai for about seven months, but dropped out and got married, which turned into an extreme ordeal for her. For her husband left her and has taken up with another man's wife. As you may see she has a beautiful smiling eight year old son and a daughter that is eighteen months. Even if she could find some kind of work, she could not follow up on it because she has no family to watch the children in her absence. She was at the afternoon meeting at Gandhi Nagar on Sunday the 24th, and we have made arrangements for her to go to the home for the blind and deaf. We are hoping that she can make it their home and that work will be found that she may do.

May the Lord bless you for your share, small or large, in this work of faith and labor of love.

In Christian love,

Jim E. Waldron

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TRAVELING

It was 12:30 p.m. Monday July 11th when Laura drove me from our home at Harri-man, TN to the airport in Nashville. From there I flew to Newark, NJ; then took a 14.5 hour trip with United Airlines on a Boeing 777 to Delhi, India; arriving there about 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday night. Indian standard time is 9.5 hours ahead of U.S. EDT. After an overnight stay in Delhi I took another flight due east about 1,000 miles to Guwahati, which is the capital of the Indian state of Assam. The North-east Bible Institute (NBI), which is the one English medium school that we have in the country, meets in Mirza, a small town just about eight miles southwest of the airport. Before leaving the States I had sent emails for various teachers and evangelists in the region of the northeast to meet me on the 14th. Thus on that morning I met with brothers Joysingh Ingti, who is the principal of the Karbi Bible Institute which lies about 110 miles northeast of Mirza and Sing Terang who is principal of the Bible Institute in Dimapur, which is in the state of Nagaland which lies east of the state of Assam. Also present was Lalit Lama, who is a teacher in NBI and a very zealous and active evangelist. Brother Jiten Ingti, who is serving as an evangelist in Dibrugar, was also present for the meeting. Dibrugar is about 135 miles north of Mirza.

My plans were to leave for the south the next day, but the urgency of that work compelled me to rearrange my flight the same evening (14th); thus at 7:15 p.m. I took a flight from Guwahati to Chennai the capital of Tamil Nadu (TN), which lies about 1,800 miles to the south. Having arrived about mid-night I took a room in a hotel near the airport. The next morning (15th) James Raj Kumar came to pick me up at 8:00. James is a mature and sound gospel preacher who works with the many evening schools, about which I have written, in the southern part of the country. In the next five days we met with 79 of our evening Bible school teachers in three states: Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. These brothers all together are training about 600 brothers to be evangelists. Also interspersed with the meetings with the teachers, through the blessings of God, I was enabled to preach a gospel meeting sermon in five places. The attendance in those places totaled more than 675 and two were baptized. In the following picture, which was made in the town of Khammam, in the state of Telangana, you can see where one of those gospel meetings was held in a street under a tent, called a "shamiana." If you look closely you can see people sitting outside in the open at the back.

On the morning of the 21st I took a 45 minute flight from Chennai to Coimbatore, TN. Stan Perveen, who is principal of the men's division of the Tamil Nadu Bible



Institute (TNBI) and Peter Wilson, who is the husband of Mercy Wilson, the principal of the women's division, met me. Both these young men are graduates of TNBI and are well trained and active gospel preachers. The school is located in a village, Chettipalayam, which is about 11 miles from the airport. At the school I have a small apartment (about 250 sq. ft.) so I spent the next two days catching up on my letters and other writing projects. On Saturday morning I spent some time with the elders of the church in the town of Palakad in the state of Kerala; see that report below.

SUNDAY 24 JULY 2016

This morning at 6:00, Stan Perveen and I left the school grounds in the little school van, made by Suzuki, to go to the city of Nammikal, TN, where we were to meet with the church in that place. The preacher, N. S. Rangunath, although blind, has been preaching

there for over twenty years. He is a 1995 graduate of the Bible Institute at Dindigul. From Chettipalayam it is a 3.5 hour drive. On the way we picked up Surya Anbu, another young gospel preacher; enroute we stopped at a small wayside restaurant and ate breakfast. We arrived at 9:30 with the worship beginning at 10:00; Stan translated for me into the local language, Tamil. There was a crowd of about 55 of them were blind. We enjoyed visiting a while after the service then left for a 2.5 hour drive to the city of Thrichy.

Our aim in going to Thrichy was to meet with a congregation near that city, which is known as the Gandhi Nagar Church of Christ. It is unique in that it was begun about twelve years ago by brethren who are blind. We helped them at the time put up a small concrete block building, which they have outgrown. Their regular service on the Lord's day for worship is in the morning, but due to a call from them indicating that they wanted to speak to me about helping to expand their building a meeting was scheduled that afternoon at 3:30. This was due to the fact that we were planning to be with the Nammikal church in the morning. We arrived in time to begin the worship at 4:00. Again I preached and Stan translated. The crowd was overflowing as you may see from this next photo.

In all there were 81 adults present and 21 children. As you will note there are among them many who are blind; this has come about because of the foresight of one of our 1993 graduates from the Dindigul Bible Institute, K. Shumugam. This brother had a great zeal for the blind, so the same year he graduated we helped him open a home and school for the blind. In 1995 he shifted the school to the small town of Pudukkottai.



There in time, it became not only a home and school for the blind, but for the deaf also; it is recognized by the state government of Tamil Nadu. It is about 20 miles from Thrichy. The present enrollment is 38; of this number there are eighteen girls and young women who are blind and sixteen men; there are also four deaf students, two boys and two girls. Brother Shumugam passed from this life on May 20, 2014 to wait for the resurrection of the just. His son-in-law, Nelson Masilamani and his wife, Priscilla, the daughter of the deceased, work with his widow, Elizabeth, to conduct the home and school.

Besides the Gandhi Nagar church that has so many blind, there is another congregation on the opposite side of Thrichy that has 52 members and 14 of them are blind. They are also graduates of the Pudukkottai School for the Blind. As I drank in all the above numbers about so many individuals who are blind being New Testament Christians in this area, it struck my mind that the reason for this relates directly to the fact that so many were taught the gospel in an intensive manner. They, even though blind, are required to memorize scripture, take tests and learn how to tell others of Christ and His kingdom (Acts 8:12). That is, they spent much time learning "to observe all things that (Christ) had commanded" (Matthew 28:20).

TWO SOULS ADDED: In this picture you see a brother in Christ, whose name is R. Tamil Selvam. His son, who stands at his left is Preveen Kumar. He is 21 and his sister's name is Lavanya Nirosha. She is 20. These two young people made the good confession at the close of the service at Gandhi Nagar, on Sunday, July 24th. Brother Charles Rajamani, who preaches for the Airport church east of Thrichy baptized them.



THE REASON FOR GOING

As noted we went to Gandhi Nagar to ascertain the needs for their building. The present building is 16' by 20' or 320 square feet. It has no classrooms or toilets. Not only do they need the latter, but some of the sisters are wanting to hold classes for children. During the thirty years since I came (February 1986) here to work I have rarely helped with a building, because it is one way to get a congregation involved in something that is some what of an anchor in the community. We have helped some with funds for a few roofs after their walls went up, and we helped with this building in Gandhi Nagar, because the blind have a very difficult time earning a living.

So I have indicated that we will help them with an expansion by letting them turn their present building into two classrooms and adding a large assembly hall attached to the old and in front of it. The new hall will be 28' X 20' (560 sq. feet) for an auditorium. It will be built of concrete blocks and a poured roof. Ready mix can be procured for the roof and footings. A cubic meter (35.94 square feet) here costs Rs 3,500.00 (\$53.00), while a cubic yard (27 square feet) in the States