

CHETTIPALAYAM, TAMIL NADU, S. INDIA

These are the Elders who sponsored the debate on April 21, in Chennai. In that debate they backed brother Joseph Santhana-raj, who affirmed, *The Scriptures teach: Jesus is God even as the Father is God!* A man, Vella Kumar, denied the proposition.

All three are graduates of our Bible Schools in Tamil Nadu and serve as elders overseeing the church that meets in Ebenezer Hall on the campus of the orphan home, known as *Dav Anbu Illam*: House of God's Love.



T. Samuel, M. Thangavel
and S. Ravichandran

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OBEYING TITUS 3:10

This scripture says, *“Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition, knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.”* The elders seen above have done that toward some who have sought to destroy the work of our Bible Schools and orphan homes in India. In 1963, Brother J.C. Bailey opened the work of the church in India. He was followed by other Canadian brethren, like James and Carl Johnson. The Johnsons were no kin, but brothers in Christ; both were zealous and began preacher training schools. Not only so, but Carl and his wife, Emma, began a home for indigent boys; Carter Boy's Home. It is closed, but other homes and schools of preaching are up and running in various places in India.

Yet, not everyone is happy with either the homes for homeless children supported by the church or preacher training schools. By this I speak of some in America who call themselves “NI's,” *i.e.*, Non Institutionals. They, not only oppose orphan homes, but also oppose our Bible training schools. Yet, even though they oppose such Bible schools and restored homes, they are very brazen as to entice those whom we and others have trained, to oppose the homes and Bible schools. This they do with an offer of American money. Thus on May 5, '17, the brothers shown above wrote a letter to five Indian brothers who have become hirelings to teach the NI doctrine. They wrote, “Dear Brother: Concerning the Non-Institutional doctrine, which consists of 3 laws that are extremely divisive among the followers of Christ. Law No 1). It is forbidden for the church of Christ to provide a home for a homeless child like the work in *Deva Anbu Illam*, which is next door to our building. Law No 2). It is forbidden for the church of Christ to conduct a Bible school like the Tamil Nadu Bible Institute, also next door. Law No 3). It is forbidden for the church to eat in the church building. Since you have joined the NI's and are teaching their doctrine we are calling on you to repent and give it up. Repent and publicly acknowledge that the three laws of the NIs are divisive and sinful. This is a first admonition” (Titus 3:10).

As a result of the letter, two brothers phoned with questions and objections, but none made any effort to repent; thus on June 12th the elders wrote the second letter of admonition; and have notified the church as there is no evidence that the five will give up the American money nor stop opposing the homes and schools.

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Crossville Church of Christ
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NORTHEAST BIBLE INSTITUTE MIRZA, ASSAM N.E. INDIA



Pictured here are the nine 2017 graduates from the Northeast Bible Institute in Mirza, Assam, N.E. India. Their graduation took place on Saturday the 29th of July. Most of our Bible schools are conducted in the evenings for brethren who have jobs; but the nine young people here have studied daily for two years. Class time is 4.5 hours per day five days a week in Bible, with the month of March for school leave. Besides their Bible classes, the students study tailoring and computers. They also have the opportunity to prepare for their GED or complete a college course by correspondence.

The young man with glasses at the left is being sent to Kokrajar to work with another young gospel preacher, whose name is Barnabus. The town is about a hundred miles southwest of Assam's state capital, Guwahati. Kokrajar is the center of the area where there was civil strife between two tribes in December 2014. You may remember that the Indian army separated the two groups and put them in refugee camps where there was very little food for the people; so we sent our students into their midst with rice, oil, sugar, salt and other necessities. The American brother seated at the center of the picture is Scott Richards of Atlanta, GA. He has worked side by side in this work since 2008. He is very much involved in teaching and training these young people to serve our Master.

NEW FIRST FRUITS OF THE TORNADO



JOYSINGH'S REPORT

Diphu, Assam, N.E. India, (Sunday, July 23, 2017). Dear Brother Jim, Our graduates, brothers Chondro, Thomas and Bidyasing have been visiting and preaching in the tornado ravaged area for about two weeks. They leave their homes early in the morning and go by motorcycle; reaching the place around 10:00 a.m. They usually return home at 8:00 or 9:00 in the evening. They spend the day preaching to the people telling the church of Christ is the original church. To Hindus they preach about the one true and living God. Some of the people have been taught the word for more than four days as the brothers have gone often to their homes and taught them. They had asked these families to meet yesterday (Sunday) in one place and they asked me to go with them as a witness.

They preached to them about the original church, the plan of salvation and explained about baptism. The people asked many question regarding their denominations' doctrine versus the churches of Christ. The results were that ten people were baptized into Christ (See the picture above). Some were from a denominational background and some from Hinduism. For me I do not know the language (Assamese), so I did not preach, but the brothers took part in the worship as they speak Assames very well. These preaching brethren encouraged them after worship and before we left from them. The problem now is that we need Assamese Bibles and song books, today we sang a song in Karbi, our language, but we need song books and Bibles in the local language. In Him, Joysingh.

Note from Jim: My recent trip to India was from February 19th till June 27th. While there I took part in four graduations in three states; 311 individuals received their diplomas in Bible. As reported on the front page of this newsletter Scott Richards, a diligent fellow soldier in this work of training faithful disciples, was in Mirza for the graduation of nine from our English medium school. Two things just here I want to do; 1) Glorify the words of the Holy Spirit by the apostle Paul (2 Timothy 2:2); and number 2) to thank you all who give so generously to make these schools possible as well as to help widows and fatherless children. In this connection I want especially to thank and greet those who write regularly to say they are praying for me and this work; finding little time myself to send personal thanks. I must return to India by the 2nd of September.

May the God of all grace and comfort strengthen you day by day in His service.

Jim E. Wellborn

NEW CONGREGATION



HALDIBARI BORPATHAR

The picture above is of a new congregation, but not where the tornado hit. It lies about 150 miles west of that area in a village near the city of Dibrugarh. The brother on the left in the picture is Jiten Engti, who works as an evangelist in Dibrugarh itself, which is Assam's second largest city with a population just over 122,000. Assam is in the northeast section of India with a population of over 31,000,000. Three evenings a week Jiten teaches a Bible class for 2.5 hours in obedience to 2 Timothy 2:2; which requires the training of faithful disciples to teach others.

On Saturdays he often takes a brother with him to preach in various places in the region. Here is his report of July 31, 2017: Dear Brother, "There is a place named Haldibari Borpathar, which is 25 miles from Dibrugarh town. Sochin and I have gone there twice for preaching the kingdom of God," as Philip did in Samaria (Acts 8:12). The first time we found seven persons who were interested in the message; then yesterday (30-07-2017), they again invited us.

So we went there and met the people. Again I preached to them the kingdom of God (Eph. 5:5), also the five steps of salvation; seeking to convince them to be baptized. The blessed results were that they obeyed the gospel: repenting, confessing and being baptized. All seven were immersed and added unto His kingdom. After baptism we had Sunday worship with them: four sisters and three brothers. They constitute a new congregation in the town.

Thanking you, Jiten Engti .