

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO PRODUCE A TURN AROUND?

According to the 21st Century Publication there are some 9,000 congregations across America, which are not pre-millennial, not one cuppers, not anti-church support for homes for orphans, and have not adopted instruments. Each of these congregations generally has a good church house; yet most are used only six to eight hours per-week. Is it not possible that many of these church buildings could be used to conduct similar evening schools as mentioned on the overleaf? If not, why not? In Middle Tennessee there are already congregations in various areas doing such through the good influence of brother James McGill. In Georgia brother David Decker works with the Piedmont Road church to encourage these kinds of programs. But we need thousands. Beloved, our world is beyond desperate for the preaching of Jesus as King of Kings and His kingdom, which was founded on Pentecost with about 3,000 members the first day. To use Isaiah's words in 58:1, "Cry aloud, Spare not, Lift up your voice like a Trumpet," and preach boldly "the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ" as Philip did in Samaria (Acts 8:12). The world needs to be told; "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Corinthians 6:9-10, NKJ).

In the U.S., we are training a pittance of those needed to preach the kingdom and call sinners to repentance. Jesus told the apostles, "teach them to observe all things;" at this time, this is the obligation of elders and gospel preachers. Elders are to feed the flock (Acts 20:28). Some may say, often the flock will not respond to the elders! But the church needs to be reminded to, "Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls (Hebrews 13:17).

One more urgent thing, it would be well for more elders to fill pulpits in order that more preachers could do the work of evangelists. Who will come over and help reach Nichya's generation? By the way we need sisters too! Beloved we covet your prayers. May the God of all comfort be with you.



In Christian love,

Jim E. Waldron

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WALDRON NEWSLETTER

Volume 51

MARCH 2017

No. 3

SOME VERY SERIOUS THOUGHTS ON THE URGENCY OF WORLD EVANGELISM!

India's population is one billion, three hundred million. If we divide 1.3 billion by eighty, as a general number of years over which the population may be spread, then we reach an approximate number that are in each age group. That is, there are, more or less, 16,250,000 individuals that are presently at any one age. With the hope that my math may be reasonably correct I want to introduce you to Nichya, who is 3.5 years old and the daughter of a gospel preacher, Kumar and his wife, Rasati. On Sunday the 6th of February I preached for the congregation where her daddy and another brother, David Jaya, share the pulpit and the evangelistic labors; they are self-supporting. The reason I noticed this little girl was due to her smile. Since her parents are Christians there is the great possibility that in ten or so years she will become a Christian herself. But what about the other 16 million that are also in the three-year age group. Who will obey Mark 16:15-16 and come here to reach her generation and millions more? Did Jesus not mean for Mark 16:15-16 to apply to those of us, who are New Testament Christians today?



From the report on the inside of this Newsletter it ought to be obvious as to what may be accomplished by having sound workers on the field, who can take the lead, train and encourage native Christians to do the same, and stay with it. This is my 82nd year of life and I have been involved in foreign evangelism since 1967, and even though I have continually sought others to take up the challenge, the number of those who have come and stayed until they are truly productive are, as grandma would say, as scarce as hen's teeth.

But let me address another serious problem among us. Presently the churches of Christ as documented by the 21st Century in Nashville, TN are not only not growing, but are receding in the number of congregations and membership. The sound colleges and schools of preaching among us are hardly producing sufficient evangelists to fill the pulpits that are vacated by deaths. There is an urgent need that every faithful evangelist and congregation across the land in a very serious manner take up the responsibility of obeying TWO TIMOTHY TWO TWO.

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FEBRUARY 22, 2017—209 GRADUATES



On the above date, these brothers came together in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, South India, to celebrate three years of hard work and receive certificates of their graduation. They were from two states: Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

They began their studies three years ago, in 2014. In 2016-2017 there were 78 of these Bible schools with a total of 599 brothers enrolled.

In the spring selection new students will be chosen. They will be scheduled to graduate in 2020. Requirements to reach graduation include, studying the Bible 3 evenings a week for 3 hours each evening, for 3 years.

Class work includes memorizing 3 verses for each class session, and tests on the text each class meeting. In order for a congregation to host such a class, the elders or the secretary and treasurer of their business meeting, must write a letter stating that the school is theirs and they are responsible. While in the school the students receive a small stipend for an evening meal and bus fare. They must have a job to support their families; they are not put on support after graduation.

HISTORY OF THIS PROGRAM

Brother James Rajkumar, who sits with Scott Richards and me in the center of the two groups, lives in Chennai itself. It was he who proposed such classes back in 2009 and has been the coordinator ever since.

The graduating classes since then have been; 2012—12 graduates; 2013—12 graduates; 2014—62 graduates; 2015—67 graduates; and this year 2017—209 graduates for a total of 487 since 2012.

