

A CHALLENGE TO BUY 600 GOATS FOR 120 WIDOWS AND FATHERLESS CHILDREN



This picture was made some years ago when J. W. Samson and I went to a goat market to buy 5 goats for a widowed sister. We wanted to hire a pickup; none was available; we ended up hiring this auto-rickshaw. Loaded, it contained a driver, 2 preachers and 5 goats. I relate this event to say that we are in need of buying goats

for over 100 widows; thus a goal of a minimum of 120 widows, which at 5 each will require 600 goats.

In the July issue of this NL I told you how it was necessary to bottle feed three small goat kids and how we bought 25 goats for five widows. The cost of the 25 was \$2,131.78; just over \$85.00 per head. The price reflects the fact that goats have gone up due to the government putting a ban on the slaughter of cows; making the demand for goat meat much greater.

You will note that I am making no mention of buying cows. The reason why we are not buying cows is due to, 1) The long term drought conditions in the south of India has made it extremely difficult to provide fodder for the cow, which the widows just cannot afford. 2) The second reason is the cost of a good cow that gives much milk can be between \$700.00 and \$ 900.00.

Our practice over nearly 30 years in helping widows and fatherless children is to buy five goats for a widow alone and one extra goat for each child. It brings joy to my heart for the great manner in which so many of you have helped us time and again over the years in buying livestock.

If younger goats are bought the price will be adjusted, but the goal is to purchase 600 adult goats at \$85.00 each. So I am asking Bible class teachers and parents who read this request to challenge their students to set a goal as to how many goats they can buy.

Also let me urge you to present the money before the church in order that all may see and glorify God the Father as it is written,

"To Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen"(Ephesians 3;21).

Jim E. Waldron

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A REPORT FROM JOYSINGH

This young brother (26), who is principal of our Karbi Bible School in Diphu, Assam, is so very zealous and up beat about the gospel. I want to relate one of his reports about the work of evangelism in Karbi Anglong, which is a large district in the state of Assam, N.E. India.

"There were seven persons baptized by one of our second year students; his name is Bison Rongphar. Those baptized came from the Believers Church (an Indian denomination) and the Catholic Church, but now they have turned to the Church of Christ. This was after being taught that the Church of Christ is the original church.

"Yesterday morning I took class for them. Telling them about the kingdom/church and the plan of salvation. This was because Bison and Chondro went last Friday to a place to preach. They had to walk 4-5 hours to reach the village. Kindly remember them in your prayers.

"Last week brother Chondro baptized two men, who were Hindu. The villagers and the headman persecuted them for being converted to Christ and gave them little time to leave from that village. They also broke their bicycles and cooking pots, while they were not at home. They also threaten that their houses would be burned if they continued as Christians. As I heard from our brothers yesterday they are still living as Christians. So please remember them in your prayer."



SEVEN OF THESE WERE BAPTIZED



Tourist Guide Map - North East, India

NORTH EAST INDIA

You have seen this map before; but I encourage you to study it more closely for with the help of God and you, we have Bible Training Schools in three of these seven states: Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland. Not only so, but native brethren, trained in our Bible schools are about to open such schools in two other N.E. states: Manipur and Tripura.

Manipur has a land area of 8,621 square miles, which makes it almost 1,000 square miles smaller than the U.S. state of Vermont, 9,614. The population of Vermont in 2016 was estimated at 624,594 (Wikipedia). Manipur's population is over three million. The other state, Tripura is smaller than either with only 4,051 square miles of land area, yet it has a population of over four million. West Bengal is not considered a northeastern state and Bhutan is an independent country.

BAPTISM PHOTO OF GOPAL DEBBARMA, BAPTIZED



A ZEALOUS SOUL WINNER

Lalit Lama, who may be seen at the left just after baptizing Gopal Debbarma into Christ, is the most zealous brother I have ever met in winning souls. If he is on a bus he will give everyone on it a tract and sit beside someone and open a conversation about the gospel. If he goes into a pharmacy he will open a conversation about Christ, by asking the druggist, if he knows the Bible says the earth hangs on nothing (Job

26:7). Plans are for him and his fellow laborer, Sumit Nayak to begin a Bible school in January in Agartala, Tripura.

MORE EXCITING NEWS FROM JOYSINGH

Back in January 2015, Joysingh and some other brothers made a trip into the hill country of Karbi Anglong in order to preach the gospel. Apparently the region is somewhat like Appalachia was in the 1930's as the roads are similar to pig paths and horse trails. Joysingh reported that the village, which they visited was not only primitive, but was hardly accessible. He reported that during the monsoon season (April—October) a car cannot go there due to the very poor condition of the roads.

In his report he speaks of about 8,000 living in the village. A number of villagers and the head man asked if we had any way to care for orphans as there were about 60, who had no homes. For their meals these children go from house to house to eat. Here is a portion of Joysingh's report after he and other brothers visited the place a second time,

November 28, 2015: "Last week we went to the Tarapung area where on our first visit we had learned about the many orphans. We went by bus and it was necessary to get down and walk a long distance to reach the place. We went to the home of the head man and explained to him and some of the people, as you had explained to us, that it would be necessary to have some extended family member to grant us permission to take the children; and that the agreement would need to be approved by the person or persons who were authorized to do so.

"We explained that once we have taken responsibility for the children the relatives cannot take them back until we release them as adults. The head-

man agreed, as well as some of the children's relatives. Others informed us that children had been abandoned as no one would take them. Others, they said were pure orphans, because the father and mother had died. They told of children being kept as slaves. Others have mothers, but no father, because the father had abandoned the wife and children. Afterwards we met even more relatives of other children and they asked, when will you be able to take them? Saying we are waiting from long time after your first visit (January 2015).

WHY THE DELAY?

At this point you may ask, why the delay from September 2015, until August 2017. The fact of the matter is that Joysingh has been searching for land that we could buy on which to build cottages in which perhaps, a half dozen children each may be cared for by a "house mother." Joysingh has been busy in the search of land we could buy for such a home, but land for sale is limited. He found several pieces of land, but they were undesirable because of being hilly and steep and very expensive. Then about ten months ago he found a piece of land that was just over six acres, but was incumbered by a mortgage and several families living on it as squatters.

It has taken about nine months for the owner to clear his mortgage and to persuade the squatters to vacate it. It is good to report that they were all off about two months ago and we paid Rs 7,32,800.00 (\$11,361.24), which amounts to less than \$2,000.00 per acre. The property was deeded to a trust which is used by the orphan homes Don Iverson and others have set up in the south. The land will be used not only for the cottages, but the Bible school will be moved there eventually.

RETURNING TO INDIA

As I reported to you before I came home on the 27th of June and will now return in order to help with the planning for the orphan home and meet with various groups of teachers that are conducting Bible schools. Thus when you receive this NL I will have left Knoxville on September 4th, bound for Newark, NJ; and from there to New Delhi, India where I will arrive on the evening of the 5th. India time is 9.5 hours ahead of eastern time.

I speak for Don, Scott Richards, our faithful evangelists in India, their families, myself and our families when I quote Paul's words to the saints in Thessalonica, "Brethren pray for us" (1 Thessalonians 5:25). And in that I desire that you godly sisters pray also.