

## 24 GOSPEL PREACHERS TRAINED IN THE STATE OF KERALA



These brethren put in two weeks a month for three years in our Bible School in the village of Palakat in Kerala, India's most southern state. The brother seated second to my right is Thampy Abraham. He is the school principal. The two brothers on either side of him serve with him as elders. There were twenty-four of them. Most of the graduates are already preaching for local congregations and want to begin a Bible school in their area.

This was the seventh graduation in five states this year. The other six included 1) 151, who graduated in January from our three year evening schools in three states: Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. 2) On April 28, there were 46 (twenty men and twenty-six women), who graduated from the full time Bible School for students between the ages of 16 and 21 in the town of Chettipalayam, Tamil Nadu. 3) On Sunday April 29 there were three men and three women, who graduated after four years in the school for the blind in the city of Pudukottai, TN. 4) On May 1st seven men and four women graduated from the Karbi Bible school in Diphu, Assam, N.E. 5) On May 2nd fourteen graduated from the Bible School in Dimapur, Nagaland; NE; ten men and four women.

4) In June there were forty-three brothers, who graduated out of the evening school programs in the city of Vijawada, Andhra Pradesh. Altogether there were 250 brothers, whom we have graduated in India since January this year. There were forty-one sisters.

There will be one more graduation from one of our schools of preaching later this year in the state of Arunachal Pradesh, on the China border. The graduates will be five.. This school is directed by a brother, whose name is Tang Kam. Besides this daytime school there are five evening schools in that state.

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# WALDRON NEWSLETTER

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**GRADUATION TO GLORY**

The above picture shows our sister Rita Basumatry and her beautiful family prior to being struck down with cancer. The small picture shows her husband carrying her to the water to be baptized on August 28, 2018, after she had heard the gospel and said, "before I die I want to get remissions of sins, I am not good physically and I will not be alright in my physical body, but I want to be in good health spiritually. If baptism is for the remission of sins according to your reading (Acts 2:38) then I want to be baptized." She passed from this life on Sunday, September 9, 2018, to her eternal home.'

## MARKING MY EIGHTY THIRD

DIPHU, ASSAM, NE INDIA

Virginia Rothery of the Crossville congregation, who has for fifteen years handled the funds that come in for this mission effort each month, carefully makes copies of the checks for me, along with the many kind notes that come regularly.

About two weeks ago, while still at home, I was reading through a stack of those notes and my eyes welled up with tears, because of the kind words of appreciation by you for this effort in foreign missions. Thus I thought it good to make mention of how much your love and care for this effort boosts my morale. Without your love this work would not be possible. One of the most meaningful thoughts that often rises up in my mind is that some of you have been helping since 1967, when our family first ventured abroad to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

I was born on 11/4/35, in Nashville, TN and will mark my 83rd birthday next month. The truth of the matter is that my parents never lived together. I credit God, who snaked me up out of a broken home to be a gospel preacher and a missionary for His Son.. Much of that credit goes to four women who strongly influenced me to be what I am today. First I will speak of my two grandmothers, Mary Lou Davidson of Lyell, TN, and Daisy Waldron of LaVergne, TN, both were devout Christians. The third person who had a great influence in my life was my mother, Bernice Davidson, who was 15 when my father, Paul, who was 19, got her pregnant in February 1935. He was forced to marry her in August that year.

Mother's economic power was so little it was necessary for her to let me live with various relatives in various locations in different states; she worked in Nashville. In that way I changed schools 23 times in eight years. In 1950, my mother met a dependable man, a marine, Robert Holman, and married him. This made it possible for my brother and me to have a steady home. We moved to West Nashville; I was in the 8th grade.

My brother and I began to attend the West Nashville Heights Church of Christ. Calvin Parker was my Sunday school teacher and he baptized me in August of 1953. I was 17 and Calvin was 27. In April 1954 my stepfather received orders from the Marines to move to Camp Lejeune, NC. I had completed two years in Bellevue Highschool in Davidson County and did not want to change schools. I explained this to Calvin and his wife Gwen and they graciously invited me to live with them. Thus they provided a strong example for me and greatly influenced me to be a gospel preacher.

To quickly come to the point of my interest in world evangelism; I should say, this was because of my maternal grandmother, so virtually from the time I was baptized Mark 16:15-16 was in my mind, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel." Friends in high school knew that this was a goal of mine. I graduated in May of 1955 and enrolled in David Lipscomb College in September that Fall. Besides the Bible classes I would attend the mission meetings on Monday nights. Ira Y. Rice, who planted the church in Singapore in 1955 later visited Lipscomb. His zeal for world evangelism resonated strongly upon the cords of my heart to reach the masses.

In the summers of 1955 and 1956 I worked in Connecticut. The first summer I worked on a farm and one week we put in 80 hours, because we had to hoe by day and irrigate the crop by night. The second summer I worked at carpentry. These summer jobs were to raise money to pay my school tuition and other needs. In 1957, I was preaching for the Five Points church in Hickman County, TN and working on a farm in Belmeade, near Nashville.

This brings me to the fourth woman in my life. Laura Gary, a graduate of Oak Ridge (TN) High School enrolled in Lipscomb in the fall of 1957. I was a junior. We met on October 31 that year and together we began to attend various functions of the college. We enjoyed each others company very much. Her brother, Jim Gary, was also there and we hit it off well and even discussed doing foreign missions together and went so far as to try to find a teacher of Portuguese, as Brazil was much in the news at the time.

That fall I was invited to preach for the church in Pleasant View, TN; west of Nashville. Plans were for me to preach on Sundays beginning in January 1958 and continue my studies at Lipscomb. During the December school vacation I drove Laura to her home in Oak Ridge; then drove to New Bern, NC to visit a maternal uncle of mine, Ben Davidson; a devout Christian. At that time North Carolina was a domestic mission field; Ben told me that the church at Jacksonville, NC was looking for a preacher. So I tried out for them and they wanted to hire me. Upon returning to Nashville I told the Pleasant View church that I was going to take the full time work in Jacksonville and they were pleased for me to do so.

I proposed and Laura accepted; we made plans to marry on February 22, 1958. As scheduled I went to Jacksonville and began preaching and got my first taste of evangelizing on a mission field.

To illustrate the pleasure of our plans together on the mission field; let me quote a portion of Laura's two page letter she wrote me from Oak Ridge on 16 February, just six days before our marriage, "Dearest Jim, I don't have a bit of news to tell you, but

*just wanted you to be extra careful on your trip back here... I'm sorry this is so short. I did want you to know that I am thinking of you... That's all—'cept I sure do love my man."* Lovingly, Laura.

We were married in the building of the New York Ave. church. James Eaton performed the ceremony, Clifford Reel took part and Garland and Corrine Elkins were among the many guests. That was the beginning of our mission effort. In time we went to Pakistan (1967-1970); to Australia (1971-1975); to Ukraine (1991-1993) after the wall fell; and to India from 1986.

My work in these places has not only been to evangelize, but most of the work has been to obeying Two Timothy Two Two: Train faithful men. Many of you during these many years have been supporters of this work, for which we thank God and you.

A bit of historic interest, may be, is, that two of the young women, who were Laura's friends at Lipscomb (60 years ago) have been supporters of this mission effort for years. One of these is Martha Moss Slate with her husband, Ray. They live in Fairfield Glade near Crossville, and are members of the Crossville church. The other friend is Joyce Silvertooth, who is widowed and lives in Winchester, TN and worships with the church there. Her husband, Wayne, was an elder with the Winchester congregation and a close friend before he passed.

*Jim S. Waldron*

## SOMETHING LIKE A WEST TEXAS TORNADO

As I noted above, the work in India began in 1986. During the first twenty-five year I pushed 2 Timothy 2:2, in regular day time schools of preaching and about one thousand brothers were trained; but in 2012 we began to promote evening Bible schools. These have absolutely mushroomed, because of the order by the Spirit, "train faithful men to teach others also." Instead of working in four states then we now have Bible schools in nine states; and we have placed two evangelists in two other states.

The demands are like a tornado. For example on the back page I made mention that this year 250 brothers have graduated from schools scattered from the southern tip of the country to the far northeast. Presently in all the evening school we have more than 750 enrolled; the cost per student in these schools is \$25.00 per month. I tell them that this not to pay them to go to school, but to provide bus fare and a meal of beans and rice. The tornado is that there are many of the graduates, who desire to begin such Bible schools in their congregations, but say to them that I cannot promise, but wait to see how the gifts come in after the New Year.