

NEWSLETTER

Waldron Missions
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ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Arunachal Pradesh is the name of the Indian state that lies in the far northeastern part of the country and borders China; part of it is claimed by China. It borders the Indian states of Assam to the south and Nagaland to the southeast. The country of Burma/Myanmar lies to the east, Bhutan to the west and on the north it borders the Chinese-occupied country of Tibet. The landscape is rugged in the extreme for it sits in the eastern portion of the Himalayan mountains.

Two of the schools which we have in India are located in the state. One of these in the town of Gandhigram is located four days by walking to the nearest bus line. The other is in the town of Jairampur. Presently there are sixteen enrolled in it; of these four are married and twelve are single. Last year four graduated after completing the two year course,. This school is supported by the church in DeFuniak Springs, FL. It is directed by Tang Kam a graduate of the Bible School in Shillong. In the picture below he sits on the right.

Here is his January report:

“This is to inform that a Gospel Meeting was held on 26th & 27th of December 2009 at Tokopani Church of Christ, hosted by the local Church and it was conducted successfully. There were nine souls be baptized into Christ. They were from different villages like Phinviro, and Wara. Please do remember them in prayer for their spiritual maturity.

“Four new congregations were established in the year 2009, namely, Wara Church of Christ and churches at, Nampong, Hadlong and Phinviro. Special note: Wara is about 15 Km (10 miles) from Jairampur. Those of us from the school are regularly visiting there because of the interest by the local people in the gospel. Religiously they are Buddhists and many want to accept the Gospel, but due to religious threat by the village authority, they are in dilemma. Therefore, kindly remember them in prayer that God may open their heart and without any trouble or hindrance we might preach to them. God willing, we have a target to plant ten more congregations in the year 2010. In fact we need as much as Bible Tracts both in English and Hindi if available.”



OTHER SCHOOLS AROUND THE COUNTRY

In the south of the country we are encouraging our graduates to set up evening schools with their home congregations. There are 105 villages where these kinds of classes are taking place each week with 230 brothers enrolled. Besides these kinds of schools, *we have by the grace of God (that’s not just a cliché) twenty-three other schools of preaching where men are being trained to preach *“the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus the Christ”* (cf., Acts 8:12). Most of these are located in India’s most southern state, Tamil Nadu, but there are four in the state of Kerala, which lies west of Tamil Nadu; two in Arunachal Pradesh (see above), which is about 1,800 miles north of Tamil Nadu; one in Dibrugarh, Assam; and one in Shillong, Meghalaya. Altogether there are at this writing 719 brothers enrolled in all these preacher training programs.

Of the 1,500 plus brothers, who have graduated from the regular schools of preaching over the last twenty years, fewer than fifty are receiving foreign support. This they receive because of fulltime work with the schools or in areas where schools are soon to be set up. Our major focus is to encourage the brothers to be tent making preachers (Acts 18:3; 20:34-35); see the next article.

*The term “we,” refers not just to the 3 Americans, Don Iverson, Garry Jones and myself, who initiated these schools, *but* to a far greater extent the faithful native brothers who work in all the schools, except the one in Shillong, N.E. India. The work is training faithful men to preach the gospel.

BICYCLE CAMPAIGN

Yet, the training is not the bottom line. The bottom line is the planting of sound local churches of Christ that will be upholding the truth (I Tim. 3:15) when we are dead. To add an extra incentive to soul winning among these brothers some from the States periodically go over to participate in “on the job” training. For example Don Iverson has just led a three-week campaign for Christ in the southern portion of Tamil Nadu in which 272 obeyed the gospel at a cost, according to Don’s estimate, of about \$9.50 per soul won.

Since he worked the southern portion of the state we are planning a more concentrated campaign lasting only three days (April 2-4) in the northern portion of the state. It will be a bicycle campaign and involve 920 preachers and students working intently to win souls and plant new congregations. Virtually all these brothers are tent making preachers and earn, as day laborers, between \$2.00 and \$3.00 per day.

To encourage them we want to provide them \$10 for the three days, that is \$3.33 per day, to off set their loss of daily wages. This means the support for 920 brothers will be \$9,200.00. To help with this you might support five preachers for these three days of gospel meetings for \$50 or support ten for a \$100.

As most of you know we provide bicycles for these brothers after they have successfully completed one or two years in the schools. Of the 920 we have already purchased bikes for 680 of them, which means before the end of March we must provide bicycles for the remaining 240. Providing a bike for one of these gospel preachers is like buying a car for a student preacher in the States. A bicycle costs \$65, thus you may buy one for a brother and pay him for three days as an evangelist for a total cost of \$75. Please help as you can.

VASUKI

On February 3rd at 4:30 a.m. a brother in Christ, Elangovan, aged 27, died of a heart attack. This young man graduated from the school of preaching at Dindigul in May 2007. He had put his training to good use for he was a “tent making preacher.” At the time of his death he had a job as a security officer for a manufacturing company. The little church where he preached each Lord’s day was only about two years old but the attendance was up to fifteen.

He left a young widow, Vasuki (26) and an eight month old boy, Dhaya Nitish. She is trained as a seamstress and owns a sewing machine, but doesn’t have a job of her own. She was baptized in 2005 and now lives with her parents, who are Hindu.

On February 4th Peter Wilson sent me an email telling me of the tragedy; I immediately emailed him back saying that he should send her Rs 5,000/- (\$110) by money order for her urgent needs, which he did the next day. In the same email I asked him to find out if she could handle goats. She sent word back that she would prefer sheep to goats, for her neighbors used a certain kind of shrub for “fencing” and if she had goats they would eat the shrubs.

On the 10th Peter and Murgesan, who also works in the office at Dindigul, went in the school truck the fifty-five miles to the home of Vasuki’s parents. There they went to a nearby neighbor, who owned sheep to purchase some for our little sister. The farmer had a number of females that were already bred and some were due to drop their lambs in a fortnight. In the spirit of livestock sales people the world over the farmer began by asking nearly double the going rate. Yet, Peter and Murgesan are rather adept by now at buying livestock, thus they were able to buy five ewes that were pregnant and one small lamb at a total cost of Rs 12,600/- or \$280.00. Thanks to the gifts of young people, you and others like you we had these funds on hand.

This was emergency help for Vasuki, because of the suddenness of her husband’s death, but as mentioned last month we still have the 84 widowed sisters who applied last fall for help for whom we must provide goats, sheep or cows and there are 77 fatherless children among them (James 1:27). This we hope may be raised through the program we call, “OPERATION COMPASSION.” If you have not received a poster of widows and goats for your classroom, please phone us at 865-376-9947. Here are some pictures that Peter made of Vasuki, her child and her parents.

With Love to all, Jim Waldron



