

JANUARY 2011

THE COLDWATER CHURCH OF CHRIST PRESENTS...



THE

Far East / WORLD EVANGELISM

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P. O. Box 437
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NEWSLETTER

Coldwater Church of Christ
P. O. Box 437
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“FAR EAST / WORLD EVANGELISM” A WORLDWIDE, ALL NATIONS, EVERY CREATURE, VIEW OF EVANGELISM

The church of Christ has a worldwide - every creature - mission. This mission is from God. **“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, all power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen”**(Mat.28: 18-20). Every nation is to be taught the Gospel, by the church of Christ. This alone is a tremendous task.

Yet, there is more! Mark records; **“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned”**(Mark 16:15-16). God has said, every creature in every nation is to be taught the Gospel by us. With nearly seven billion people in the world, this may seem to be an impossible task. However, God has never commanded

anything that is impossible for us to accomplish. **This commission will require dedication and also cooperation on our part.** God's will is for every person to be saved (1 Tim. 2:4, 2 Peter 3:9). He wants every person to hear the saving message in the Gospel.

The Far East / World Evangelism is a work overseen by the Coldwater church of Christ and is trying to do what it can to reach the masses. In this brief article, I wish to give an overview of its work.

In 1955 the Ira Rice, Jr., family moved to Singapore with an attempt to establish the Lord's church in Singapore and eventually start a Bible training school which would train men and women who in turn would reach the millions (now billions!) in the Far East. The Lord blessed their efforts and the church was established, not only in Singapore, but also in Malaysia! The school also became a reality in the year 1963 and is known today as **“Four Seas College of the Bible and Missions.”** Many soldiers of the cross have been educated at Four Seas Bible College.

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Currently there are thirteen students enrolled at Four Seas College of the Bible. Students come to us from such places as **China, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Vietnam, etc. *WHAT AN OPPORTUNITY!!*** Nearly half of the world's population is located in the Far East. We can help reach them by training Christians in **Singapore** and then they go back to their homeland with God's Word. This is one way to help reach the masses – Your support is needed for this great work.

Another area of work of Far East / World Evangelism is its work in India. Brother Joshua Gootam is the man on the field in Southern India, working out of the city of Kakinada. Even as this article is being typed, brethren from the States are in Kakinada working with Joshua and Ricky Gootam, preaching to the masses who live in villages on the outskirts of Kakinada. They are to conduct a Bible Lecture to the many Gospel preachers who work diligently in the Kingdom of God.

Brother Joshua preaches the Gospel by means of satellite television by which means he potentially reaches millions. (*Continued next column*)



Pictured above and to the right are two of the villages where we work. The many who live in the villages are among the “every creature” mentioned by Jesus who needs the Gospel (Mark 16:15).



Pictured here are several who had gathered in Singapore from various locations of the world. Eddy Ee, lower left, is the preacher for the Jurong congregation in Singapore. Sitting directly behind him is a brother from Nepal who has graduated from Four Seas and is preaching in Nepal. Sitting four rows from the front is Chris Kramer from the U. S. who travelled with us and preached in the Lectureship before going on to the Philippines.

While preaching on satellite, he offers free Bible correspondence courses (written by brother Ira Rice, Jr.), and more than three million in India have already taken this course. He receives hundreds of requests each week for the **Basic Bible Course**. Additionally, He offers a free Bible to any who complete the course. We have more requests for Bibles and Bible courses than we can fill. The reason we cannot fill them is due to a lack of funds. Brother Joshua many times reaches out in faith and purchases the Bibles and then makes appeals for the payment.



SPECIAL REPORT REGARDING BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSES IN INDIA

IMPACT OF BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSES

By Joshua Gootam

Kakinada, India

(With limited editing. BB)

The city of Kakinada on the southeastern coast of India is better known as the Jerusalem of India, if not the Telugu speaking state of Andhra Pradesh which has a population of a 100 million people. One reason why the Telugu brotherhood feel it that way is out of here goes forth the word of God though Radio, TV and the printed page. This is also a city where the first school of preaching was established in India about 40 years back by Bro. J.C. Bailey. It turns out at least 100 Gospel preachers each year that were well trained on a two-year program.

However it is the Bible Correspondence courses work that is impressive here. I started running the Bible courses almost from the very next week after I became a Christian way back in 1964 working along with Bro. J.C. Bailey. In fact I obeyed the gospel after taking the Basic Bible course in English written by Ira Rice Jr. After I became a Christian I wanted to translate that course into Telugu. Since it was extensive and would need much funding to print it, Bro. Bailey decided to run a more comprehensive and well organized Bible course written by Bro. J.C. Choate while he was a missionary in Karachi, Pakistan. We ran this course (it was later printed as Bible Keys in a book form) from 1964 to 1995. Hundreds of thousands of people took this course (the Basic Bible Course, by Ira Y. Rice, BB) so much so currently we have about 3.3 million people that were enrolled through the years. This has enabled the church in Andhra state spread rapidly.

HOW WE GET THE CONTACTS:

In the early days of our work, we used to advertise in the Newspapers and also took advantage of denominational papers. But from 1976 to 2003 most of our contacts came through our Radio programs. In the early days we used to broadcast daily on the



These ladies and gentlemen (on the far right), are grading some of the many Bible courses that come in the mail daily.

Shortwave radio and at the end of each lesson we would offer a FREE Bible Correspondence course in TELUGU. We used to get an average of 500 requests per day. And when they finished the course, we would gift them a copy of the New Testament and or send them a Gospel sermonettes book. After receiving these gifts, they would in turn enroll their family members or friends. Thus the enrollment swelled like any thing. And from 1995, we began to offer each one a copy of the Bible FREE either in Telugu or Oriya. We have introduced the Basic Bible course in ORIYA language in 1995 to cover the people of Orissa who speak that language. The Oriya language course in turn had helped to spread the truth into many homes in Orissa and small congregations are resulting in that state due to our work. There are about a 100,000 enrolled from that state.

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Incidentally we also have a bimonthly magazine in ORIYA, which goes into 3000 homes as of now.

THE SUCCESS RATE:

About 70% enrolled complete the courses. This is mainly because we offer them a copy of the Bible free. Most Indians do not know where and how to get a copy of the Bible. Since this is predominantly a hindu country, there are no Bible bookstores nearby. And the Bible Society of India is the only place where you could get Bibles and it has branches only in BIG Cities like Bangalore, Delhi, Chennai, Calcutta and Hyderabad. Even professing Christians too do not know where and how to get a Bible. Thankfully at the moment a copy of the Bible is available here in India only for \$2.75. Though this sounds cheap, most Indians cannot afford even that. It translates to 120 Rupees in Indian currency which is more than a man's daily wages. But here we are, offering them a copy of the Bible and that too after completing the Bible course! They write and ask for the Correspondence course and finish it as quickly as possible and within no time a Bible is delivered to them at their doorstep! Isn't it wonderful? Many hindus also want to read the Bible. So they take the course and possess a copy of the Bible. The Basic Bible course is written in such a way, if a person stays through the entire course, he would obey the gospel sooner or later. We now estimate about 400 people are obeying the gospel each year due to this effort. We began to telecast the VOICE OF TRUTH (Satya Vani) programs from 2003. People hear the truth and see our work on TV and enroll themselves to know more about the truth. This has given us an opportunity to place the word of God in 100s of thousands of homes. And I reckon the Bible is being read in all those homes on a daily basis as all of them see it a precious possession. One woman wrote that she received her copy of the Bible from us on her knees when the postman delivered it to her. One lady who watched our telecasts in New Jersey, USA enrolled herself in the Bible course, completed it and received her copy through the mail. Her joy

knew no bounds when she got her copy of the Bible in her own mother tongue in a foreign land!

Another reason for its success is that we have a motto in our office which says "24 HOURS" which means we respond to each contact within 24 hours! I am assisted with a committed staff of 16 people that work 5 hours each day enrolling, grading and mailing the courses. We are averaging about 300 letters per day from our new contacts now. We are mailing 1000 Bibles per month to those that have successfully completed the Basic Bible Course. And another 200 Bibles are personally collected by the local contacts. If any of these contacts request us for baptism, we put him or her in touch with the nearest congregation. Occasionally people come here to be baptised also. Since religious conversion is prohibited in Orissa, people come here to obey the gospel and go back to their places and meet as small congregations.

HOW THE CHURCH BENEFITS:

The people of Andhra Pradesh are taught well through the Radio, TV, and the printed page and from man to man. People know what to do to be saved and are ready to respond if only some one asks them. So no wonder, you see or read about 100s of people obeying in meetings when American brethren come here to teach. We prepare the ground, sow the gospel seed faithfully and it is the Lord that gives the increase. Each local congregation has enough well taught people that can teach others in turn. The church increases in faith and the Lord is glorified. Please keep this work in your prayers. AND PLEASE HELP US WITH ONE MONTH'S SUPPLY OF BIBLES. God bless you.

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen. (Matthew 28:18-20)

ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE BROTHERHOOD REGARDING FOUR SEAS COLLEGE OF BIBLE AND MISSIONS:

Dear brethren;

Four Seas College of Bible and Missions in Singapore has been in operation since 1965. Its goal has been, and continues to be, to train Christian men and women in the Word of the Lord so that they will be effective workers in the church of our Lord. Brother **David Chew** has served as the President of Four Seas College for many years. We appreciate his life of service to the Lord in this area. Starting on January 1st, 2011, brother Chew will become President Emeritus of Four Seas College and Lord willing, will continue to teach in the College. We thank him and his family for their years of dedicated service.

We are delighted to announce that brother **Peter Chin** will become President of Four Seas College of Bible and Missions on January 1st, 2011. The College will continue to train Christian men and women to “teach all nations” God’s Holy Word. Brother Chin is well known in the Far East, as well as in the United States, and many other places, as a sound and capable Gospel preacher. Brother Peter Chin and his family are dedicated and effective workers in the kingdom of God. Four Seas College of Bible and Missions is a place where men and women, who wish to study God’s Word, may come and be effectively trained and then go back to their homeland to teach and/or preach the Gospel of Christ. We are thankful to brethren and churches of Christ that support Four Seas College. As we make this renewed step, we solicit your continued prayers and financial support that the Cause of Christ may go forward in seeking and saving the lost (Luke 19:10). May God continue to bless us as we teach and preach His Word (Matthew 28:18-20).

Sincerely,

Billy Bland

Billy Bland

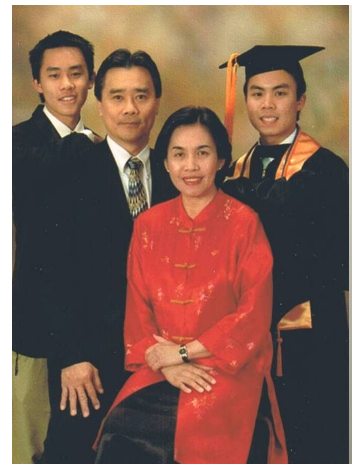
Chairman,

Four Seas College of Bible and Missions



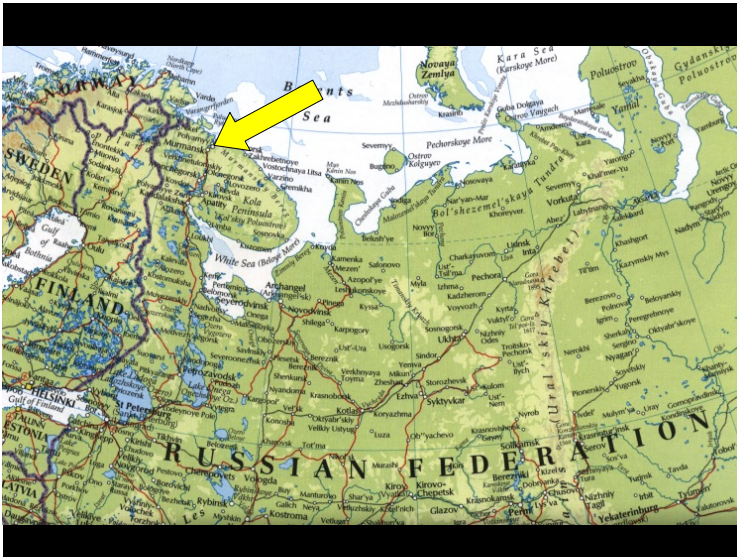
Pictured left is the David Chew family. We appreciate brother and sister Chew for their many years of continued service in Four Seas Bible College.

Picture right is the Peter Chin family. We appreciate their dedication and willingness to serve.



PREACHING THE GOSPEL ABOVE THE ARCTIC CIRCLE CIRCLE IN MURMANSK, RUSSIA

The city of Murmansk is located in Murmansk, Russia and is home to some 400,000 people. It is the largest city in the world above the Arctic Circle.



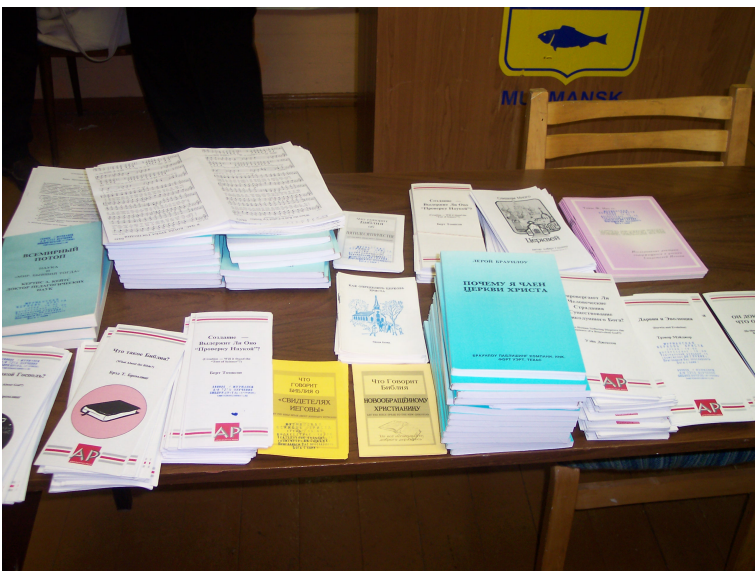
Murmansk is not the most convenient place to preach the Gospel, yet there are precious souls who need to hear the Gospel (Mark 16:15). Murmansk has a warm-water port that stays open year round although above the Arctic Circle. This makes Murmansk an important city for imports into the county.



Brother Cliff Lyons works for the Lord trying to reach people with the Gospel. In the above photo he and others give out free materials to people who pass by on the busy sidewalks.



We are blessed with the opportunity to preach the Gospel to those who attend our nightly services. Although the work is difficult, there are those who have been taught the Gospel of Christ and have remained faithful.



Free Bible materials are given to those who attend services.

WILL YOU FINANCIALLY ASSIST US IN PREACHING THE GOSPEL? (MAT. 28:18-20)? Please mail contributes to:

Far East / World Evangelism
P. O. Box 437
Senatobia, MS 38668