

The Coldwater Church of Christ presents...

Far East / World Evangelism

January— March 2009
Newsletter

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MANY OBEY THE GOSPEL IN INDIA

By Billy Bland

While it seems in many places, people are turning a deaf ear to the Gospel, it is encouraging to witness firsthand **many obeying the Gospel of Christ in India.**



On November 17, 2008, Ray & Brenda Maples, their grandson Dylan Cooper, along with Jerry Manning and I left Memphis enroute to Kakinada, India. Here we would meet up with local evangelists Joshua and Ricky Gootam (father and son). Joshua Gootam was converted to Christ back in 1964, having studied the Basic Bible course authored by the late Ira Y Rice, Jr. and then personally studying with the Late J.C. Bailey, (who had been influenced by brother Rice to move from Canada to India). Joshua was trained by J. C. Bailey to preach the Gospel and for many years has dedicated himself to the faithful proclamation of the Word of God. Ricky Gootam has just recently returned to India having received several years of education here in the States. Although he has a business degree, he wisely decided to go back to his homeland and preach the unsearchable riches of Christ. Additionally, he also operates a "Children's Home" where he helps take care of

some 55 children. Brother Joshua preaches 3 times a week on Satellite Television. During his broadcast he offers the **free** Basic Bible Courses free to anyone who is interested in studying the Word of God. In response to this offer, he receives some 300 requests a day for the Bible course! It is truly amazing the number of people who wish to know God's Word! There have been more than **3 million people** who have completed the Basic Bible Course. When a person completes the Bible course, they are given a "Certification of Completion" and a complete Bible. But, the story continues — not only does Joshua preach on Satellite TV, **he also publishes 11,000 issues of a free monthly magazine entitled "The Word of Truth."** Joshua laughed when he reported to me that if he is late getting the latest issue mailed out, people start calling, wondering where is their Word of Truth magazine. **Additionally,** Joshua compiles a sermon booklet, which he offers free of charge to the



Grading some of the many Bible Correspondence courses

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preachers who preach God's Word in the many villages.

PREACHING IN THE VILLAGES

After getting settled into our rooms on Friday evening, we visited the workers at the church building and then the Children's Home on Saturday. Saturday evening we traveled several miles to one of the many villages for the purpose of preaching God's Word.



Pictured above are the many who gathered under a banana leaf thatched roof late on Saturday night to hear God's Word.

Although it was very late when we finally arrived at the village site, we were delighted to



Although the photo is blurred, one can make out that Ray is preaching, flanked on his far left by his grandson, Dylan.

see that **many** had gathered to hear God's Word. I started out preaching, followed by brother Jerry Manning and then we were exhorted by Ray Maples. Dylan also introduced himself. Dylan, being eleven years old, was a "hit"

every- where we went. At the hotel where we stayed, if Dylan wasn't with Ray and me at breakfast, the workers in the restaurant wanted

to know "where is the little boy." This "little boy" did great on this trip and I am sure he, and they, will remember his visit. Who knows, perhaps one day, he will be a "missionary."

During our mission trip, we were blessed to preach God's Word in many villages, as well as see the great work that is being done by the local brethren. Twelve precious souls were baptized into Christ while we were there.



Among the coconut forests and rice fields there is a pool of water which is used by the Lord's church as a place where people are baptized. These two ladies obeyed the Gospel after we preached God's Word in their village. The local church follows up on any conversions.



Joshua taking the confession of two ladies who were baptized into Christ.



Picture above is Jerry Manning speaking on the Annual Asian Bible Lectureship in Kakinada, India

When one of the men scheduled to make this mission journey contacted me and stated he would not be able to make the trip, I got in touch with Jerry Manning.

Brother Manning is a man full of enthusiasm and “jumped at the opportunity” to make such a trip. Seemingly, in no time, he had a passport as well as a visa and was “sitting on ready.” He made the long drive from West Columbia, SC to board the plane in Memphis, TN, with the rest of us. This was brother Manning’s first mission trip to India, however, I don’t think it will be his last! Three of his and sister Lynn’s boys have been in MSOP (2 have graduated and one is in his 2nd year), and they have plans for the other 2 boys to

enroll as soon as they are older. We thank God for this dedicated, mission-minded family!



L—R are Jerry Manning, Dylan Cooper, Ray and Brenda Maples

Although sister **Brenda Maples** was sick several times while on this trip, she was a “real trooper.” Never did she complain about being sick, she simply weathered it and as soon as she was able, she was right back with us, traveling into distant villages and doing all she could to further the Cause of

Christ. She took a special interest in the many children. We returned to the States on December 4th, grateful to have seen and participated in the Lord’s work in Kakinada.

FOUR SEAS BIBLE COLLEGE STARTS “GRADUATE PROGRAM” AND HAS GOOD OVERALL ENROLLEMENT



Our Lord willing on January 5th **The Four Seas Bible College** will kick off its new “Graduate Program.” This program is in addition to the regular two

year program already in place. This third year of study in the Graduate Program will aid the Bible student to have a more indepth study of the Word of God.

Currently there are 13 students “in house” enrolled in both the two year and third year courses. In the 2 year program there are 2 students from Malaysia, 2 from Vietnam, 2 from

China and one from Singapore. In the Graduate Program there are 5 students from the Philippines and 1 from Malaysia. Additionally, brother Peter Chin conducts extension courses at the Lim Ah Pin congregation. The teachers for the courses are **David Chew, Peter Chin, Eddy Ee and Philip Vanwinkle.**

Your support is needed and is greatly appreciated! In addition to the normal operational expensives, Four Seas College must provide meals for the students, as well as Financial assurance (as a deposit) to the Singaporean Government.

Please send to:

Coldwater Church of Christ, P.O. Box 321, Coldwater, MS 38618

GOD'S WORD TAKES ROOT IN INDIA



After preaching in one of the villages near Kakinada, Bibles were given to who desired a copy of God's Word. We are able to purchase Bibles in India at the price of \$2.25 each. Think what an impact God's Word can have on the **over 1 billion people** (many of them Hindus and/or Muslims) in India! Will you help us get Bibles to them?



Picture above (from L—R) are Ricky Gootam, Billy Bland and Jerry Manning. We are standing on the site of the first church of Christ building in Southern India. After Joshua's conversion in 1964, he came back to his home village and converted his dad. This building was destroyed by a cyclone years ago and a new one now sits beside it. Many Indians have been converted since 1964!

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