

The Watchstander

Volume 4, Issue 1

December 2013

Special points of interest:

- Have been invited back to train student pastors at MTS
- Plans being made to create a new nonprofit organization
- Have been invited to Sicily to teach

Inside this issue:

<i>Taking It To The Street</i>	1
<i>Worship Theology</i>	1
<i>Village Pastor</i>	2
<i>Sirisha</i>	2
<i>The Trip That Almost Wasn't</i>	3
<i>New Opportunities</i>	4

Taking It To The Street

Tuesday morning I was asked if I would speak at an open air meeting. I was thrilled but wondering if I was going to go to jail for preaching. It is illegal for foreigners to speak outside of a church for the purpose of propagating the Gospel. So I had a bit of concern as one can imagine.

When we got to the meeting I realized that we were actually speaking in the street. Large burlap bags were laid out in the street and people sat on the ground to listen to music and preaching.



Preaching in the street

We actually shut down a street and held our meeting in the middle of the street.

We had more than 80 people attend the meeting. 20 people were part of a regular prayer

group that met every week. Between 50-60 people in attendance were followers of

(Continued on page 2)

Worship Theology

I spent over 20 hours of teaching 36 students on the subject of worship and spiritual formation. This is a very important subject re-

gardless of our culture. In India worship is a very important aspect of corporate worship. So often

(continued on page



MTS Class Session

Taking It To The Street (continued from page 1)

Christ with the rest being Hindu and Muslim. When we closed the service we were inundated with requests for prayer and we spent another 20 minutes praying with people for their physical health and spiritual wellbeing.

One interesting difference between India and America is the lack of noise control. You will notice in the picture that the interpreter and I both are using microphones.

Indian Christians have no com-

punction cranking up the sound system! There is no way to know how many people heard the Gospel.

I chose speak on the subject of "God's Story and How His Story Intersects with Our Story."

Please pray for this prayer meeting that is now meeting each week at this street location. Pray that God will raise up a church here at this location.



Street Preaching

Sirisha

One of my favorite things to do while in India is to meet with the child I sponsor at the orphanage.

Earlier this year the young man I had been sponsoring was taken out of the orphanage by a blood relative because he was old enough to work for the family.

While it was tough to see him go, I have a new child that I am sponsor-

ing and you can see her in this picture with me. Sirisha is in the 10th grade and is looking forward to going on to college.

We had a wonderful time trying to communicate and laughed at my lack of language skills.

You can see by her smile she is a kind believer who loves to laugh and share her love of Jesus.



Village Pastor

Thursday afternoon I had the privilege of speaking at a village church. It is a ways a unique opportunity to see Christianity as work in a small setting.

This church was slightly more well to do than most I've visited in the past. For one thing they had a cement floor verses a dirt floor. The second unique experience was that

the church had two pastors.

One had been sitting in my class all week and then had to listen to me again in his



Village Church

church!



Village Pastor, wife and church member

The Trip That Almost Wasn't

Andhra Pradesh, abbreviated A.P., is one of the 28 states of India, situated on the country's southeastern coast. It is India's fourth-largest state by area and fifth-largest by population. For several years that has been talk of splitting this state into two.

This fall the Indian government voted to allow for the bifurcation of the state and the map shows the proposed separation.

The northern half of the state felt that they were not getting their fair share of resources and were

in favor of the split. The southern half of the state felt like they would lose electricity and water would be diverted to the new northern state thus impeding their current economic state and hinder future growth.

The southern half of A.P. have not been happy and strikes have been very active in the teachers unions and the electric industry. For two months schools were



Proposed Bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh

Worship Theology (continued from page 1)

we get hung up on the musical style in our worship rather than realizing that worship is a life style.

After studying the Scriptures I am convinced that preaching will not be something that we do in heaven

but I am sure that we will spend eternity worshipping our God and King.

“Worship is more than a music style. It is a lifestyle.”

Since we know we will be

doing this activity for eternity it makes sense that we prepare now to worship in spirit and in truth. (John 4:24)



The Trip That Almost Wasn't (continued)

closed and electric production had been cut in half.

After the vote roads and railways had been closed and the airports had been picketed.

We had postponed the trip based on our host pastor's concern for

our safety.

We decided to leave this situation in the hands of our Father. A couple of weeks went by and things seemed to settle down. Pastor Jaya Sankar indicated that he thought it was safe for us to travel. After praying for God's

leading we felt led to go to India.

God was gracious and our safety was never in question the entire time we were there.

PTL!



ANCIENTFUTURE MARINER

39384 Cobridge Dr
Clinton Twp. MI 48038

Phone: 586-412-0755
Cell: 586-260-8708
Email: vlprest@comcast.net



Traversing the Post-Modern Cultural Sea

Check us out on the Web!
www.vallenprest.com

The watchstander is a nautical term and usually refers to the Chief Officer (or First Mate) who stands in for the captain of the ship. He has three fundamental duties: navigate the ship, safely avoid traffic, and respond to any emergencies that may arise. As one of God's watchmen my responsibilities include navigating the followers of Christ through the seas of post modernity, avoid any kind of traffic that will take us off our course or cause us to founder and to be there to address any emergencies that might arise during our journey.

As a trained theologian, teacher and pastor Dr. Vallen Prest observes society and addresses the many issues from a Biblical perspective.

You can follow his blog at <http://AncientFutureMariner.blogspot.com> or view his blog through his website www.vallenprest.com

New Opportunities

These last few years have been exciting to see how God has chosen to use me in a variety of different ways.

I teach three different Bible studies and have been traveling to India for the last four years to teach at Christ's Evangelical Mission's Missionary Training School.

The majority of the men in the school have been called into the ministry and are preparing to plant churches throughout the Andhra Pradesh state of India.

I have also taught a number of classes in local churches on subjects involving worship and spiritual formation.

Additionally this coming year I have been invited to travel to Sicily to teach in a number of situations and places. To accomplish this I will once again need to raise funds.

I have been praying about how this is going to expand our reach and our need for additional funds. After talking with friends and colleges and much prayer I am moving forward with the creation of a not for profit ministry for the purpose of helping people to live out the great commandment. Living out this vertical command helps us to live out the horizontal portion of the second command.

These greatest two commandments become the catalyst for us to live out the Great Commission of not only reaching the lost but equally important developing life long disciples.

Please pray as we go thorough this process and as we choose Godly people to be our board of directors.

