

HOPEFUL NEW PROGRAM FOR POOR CHILDREN



Among the tribal people of India, children have hardly any hope for salvation. Many do not have sufficient food. They sleep beneath plastic tarps in open fields (photo above). Because they never attend school, almost all remain illiterate throughout their lives. As a result of their culture and lack of resources, around the age of thirteen many are married off. Some of the girls are actually sold.

Many parents of tribal children seek a way to break the cycle, hoping their children can be spared the life-long hardships they themselves have endured. Sadly, many of these parents have approached us through the years, begging us to take their children in order that they might have a proper upbringing. One lady recently explained that nothing can be done for her soul and that she is lost. She went on to beg us to take her children in order that they might have hope.

Tribal children cannot be accepted in any of our three children's homes, as we take only abandoned children or those without parents. A different type of program was needed in order to help these for whom we have been praying for many years.

After long consideration, the Crossville elders who oversee this work have agreed to push forward with an one-year experimental program wherein we have opened a hostel, a house managed by a Christian couple, where nine children are being taught, sheltered and placed in secular schools. This work will be evaluated at the end of

the year in order for the elders to determine whether we should expand.

The primary objective of this new work is the salvation of souls. Children will be raised in the admonition of the Lord (Eph. 6:4). Further, the parents are encouraged to visit regularly, especially on Sundays, when we will provide a fellowship meal after the morning worship services. We are teaching the gospel to the parents and working to have an impact in the tribal communities.

Regulations for hostels in India fall under a different category from orphanages as we are not given primary guardianship of the children. Rules are less stringent as the parents hopefully remain involved. A side benefit has come from the Indian government, pleased and willing to help with this new effort.

We strive to please God in all things and believe this new work is according to His will, especially as "*the poor*" hear the gospel preached (Matt. 11:5). Please continue in prayer.

15 DENOMINATIONAL PREACHERS OBEY



It was a great day, several months ago, when we had the privilege of meeting with 120 preachers from various denominations in the Guntur area of Andhra Pradesh. Many of these men are zealous but are very lacking in Bible knowledge. I preached a lengthy lesson on unity and focused on the church of the Bible. Other brothers continued to teach that day and eight men decided to be baptized into the body of Christ. While more than 75 men walked away, some angry at the truth and those of us who

preached it, thirty men remained and agreed to further studies. After twelve days of teaching by Abraham, (the smiling man right of center in the photo with Solomon to his left) Solomon and others, Santhanaraj traveled to Guntur. After teaching for a day, fifteen were baptized, bringing the total to twenty-three. God is great!

Obedience for most of these men means great sacrifices. Those who have had support will lose the money from their denominations as we do not put preachers on support. They will be persecuted and jeered by many, and in all likelihood, taunts will serve for nothing less than to strengthen their faithful resolve even more. These men are now determined to teach the truth to those for whom they have preached before. In similar situations, in recent years we have observed the entire membership of denominational groups eventually being baptized. We rejoice not only for these twenty-three souls but for the thousands who will now hear. Pray!

MULTI-FUNCTION BUILDING AT DNI CAMPUS



We do not build church buildings in India, but this facility is on the campus at DNI. It serves multiple purposes: a study hall, a place of worship and also a facility for extending medical missions into the local community. Though the building is not yet completed, the cow approaching the front porch is apparently unwilling to wait. Jesus said to preach the gospel to "*every creature*" (Mark 16:15).



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Eager to start the fresh school year, the children at our DNI campus posed with their new back-packs and lunch boxes as they headed off to school. We are thankful to our Almighty God for the abundance He provides.



We are excited to have two handlooms at our DAI campus. These are of sufficient size to fill a room (photo on left) though we paid only \$100 each. The beautiful product is seen in the photo on the right. The cloth will be used to make handbags that we will ship to the US for sale. This work is kept separate from the funds for the homes, as the church has no authorization to involve itself in business ventures. The purpose for the program is to train challenged children in vocations that will enable them to support themselves.

India Missions
Church of Christ
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NEW SOUL-WINNING CAMPAIGN
3RD WEEK OF JULY...PRAY FERVENTLY!

TAMIL NEWS



Photo: *Brother Jonathan Loveday, one of the Crossville elders, is teaching students in our Arakonam school about the practical duties of elders. His teaching and example was very important, as we work to help congregations develop to the point of installing elders. He was accompanied on the trip by four other Crossville members.*

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