

Exceeding Abundantly Above

“Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us”

Ephesians 3:20



In India, there are many times when words are not sufficient to describe what God is doing among our Indian brethren. In the riverside photo above, last Wednesday I taught about the church into which these twenty-four souls were about to be baptized. The men standing with me were five of the twenty-five denominational preachers baptized two years earlier. They are now zealous students in our school in Madanapalle, a school organized by Solomon, one of the world's greatest evangelists.



Among those who put on Christ was an eager one-hundred-year-old lady. The terrain was rough, but nothing could have held her back. I took her frail arm to assist her and felt little more than

bone and flesh. Her time to meet the One who washed away her sins last Wednesday is very near.

Like many areas of India, water is scarce. Sometimes we struggle to find a place to baptize. This small pool was about ten miles out of Madanapalle. Some traveled as far as sixty miles to be here. We are currently discussing ways to build a portable tank, but even that will be difficult. What a wonderful problem!

Seven New Schools of Evangelism

Our evangelists are extremely eager to win souls in their respective areas. They see new schools of evangelism as “open doors.” My heart swelled with excitement as I entered the room filled with potential candidates for several of our new schools. They came to take the four entrance exams (photo below). I can often spot a lazy man, but as I looked around I saw nothing but eagerness on the faces of men willing to sacrifice for the God who gave His life for them.



Later that day, I learned that eleven men had qualified for the school in Chittoor. Nineteen will be starting in the new school to the south. Great things are happening for the kingdom here!

On the other hand, I found the kingdom builders Saturday schools in the south were not performing well. After questioning the teachers and students, I reminded them of their purpose. They have determined to change and I plan to visit again soon.

Great Success in Manimadurai

This school was started one year ago and is in an area where little or no work has been done. This was where I told the men we did not have



sufficient funds to start the school. After challenging me for my lack of faith, we moved forward. Of the 17 students, eighteen congregations have now been established and 359 souls have been added. God is great! *“Help thou my unbelief.”*

Best Bible Camp Ever!

Every year, in May, we bring all three children's homes together for Bible competitions. This allows us to monitor and be sure the children are receiving what they need in order to get to heaven (the priority). This year's theme was “Love One Another.” Seventeen of our children memorized the entire book of I John (five chapters, photo below).



The photo below shows finalists in the Bible Bee competition. Questions were given over I, II and III John as well as fourteen stories in the Bible. To make the children comprehend better, the 600 questions were not shared in advance, making the participants really know the material. Even still, it took two hours to finally select the winner (wearing crowns in the photo on the right). These kids are amazing!



In the Bible Bowl competition, three tables with four team members were placed. As I gave questions, the team who rung their bell first was allowed to answer. Sara, a member of the DAI team, had stayed awake all night in preparation. She was their champion, and at one point Jebastine, confident of Sara's ability, rung the bell. After a period of silence it was realized that Sara had gone to sleep. Other team members awakened her quickly and she immediately rattled off the correct answer.

The water drop was a big hit but it took a lot of effort to work with the brothers to build.



All cheered as Santhanaraj had the water bucket dumped on his head (photo). Some questioned whether this was a good idea in a Bible camp themed "Love one Another."

Tokens were given to children seen doing good deeds throughout the day. For two tokens they could purchase a ball to throw at the target (the board to the right of the bucket). All staff nominees had to take their turns in the chair and I was no exception. But in the sweltering heat of India's May, it actually felt pretty refreshing.

Emotional Work - Hard but Rewarding

A memorial time at the camp was set aside to remember one of our twelve-year-old girls who died last month. Starting this year, the government forced us to send children to visit relatives for a week or so. While away, Valarmathi died during the night of April 23. Because no investigation was done by the authorities, we are not sure of the cause of death but a poisonous snake bite during the night is suspected.

It is the time of year when new children come to our campuses and we are expecting approximately thirty. Krishnan just visited three children who lost their parents ten days earlier. Fear and fatigue is always apparent in their faces. Though we can never provide a home like God intended, our campuses soon restore a good amount of joy, security and the loving arms of our staff. Our mighty God is compassionate toward fatherless children. We believe this to be one of the greatest works in the world and regularly thank God for the opportunity to be a part. Thank you.

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TAMIL NEWS

NEWSLETTER FOR
DON AND CATHY IVERSON



At our Bible Camp, the children participated in a mock debate. They put down the false teaching of Non-institutional churches who say we should not take money from the church to help non-Christians. Ironically, these children from our homes, who Non-institutional brethren say we are not authorized to have, are very articulate and convincing with the truth. For some, it may just be an issue. For these children, it is life!

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