

GOING & MAKING DISCIPLES

For as many are led by the Spirit of God
these are sons of God.

Romans 8:14

If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Galatians 5:25



Project L.A.M.B.S. International

Telugu, India Vol. 1 No.1

Chapter One:

Andhra Pradesh, India

Background:

Size and population

- 49.4 million people
- 61,855 Square miles

Main people group

- Telugu, 3rd most spoken language in India
- Christianity, 1.2 million or 1.5% of the state's population



People Group: Telugu

- The word “Telugu” in the Telugu script :

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Place of Ministry: Chebrole , Andhra Pradesh, Southern India

They say sometimes getting to a place is half the battle and this is true concerning our trip to India. First it was down to Toronto from Winnipeg and then overnight at the airport. Next, trying to find Pastor Wade at the airport and getting checked in. We flew from Toronto to England, changed planes and then went on an Air India jet to New Delhi. There we would find some food and a piece of floor to sleep on. After several delays and an all-out protest and sit-in by people at the airport, we were able to board our plane for our next flight from New Delhi to Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh. There we were picked up by Jossi. I believe he wants to be an Indianapolis 500 race car driver. After two hours with him driving, I did not even need to shave when I got to the church compound. I should tell you that Jossi is a medical doctor and grandson of Pastor Job.

Once we drove into the church compound we saw big signs with all of our names on it welcoming us to the crusade grounds. There were many people waiting with wreaths of flowers to put on each of us, and they threw flower petals all over us. The ladies were in their full coloured saris and the men in slacks and long sleeve shirts. After shaking many hands it was now time to sit down on the porch and have something cold to drink.

It was around 10 or so when we were introduced to our room. Because we were the special guests, we got the AC (Air conditioning unit, a little more than a ceiling fan). Of course you need to have power to make it work and that was something that came on and off at various times of the day and night. We used one bed for our dresser and the other bed that had a very thin woven mattress was where Hkaw Win and I would sleep. You could say by now we were so tired that I could sleep on a cement floor and would've had a good night rest.

The next day started at sun up with people doing their laundry and preparing their morning meal. It was also a time to look around and see where it was that we were staying. People were everywhere now because it was the day that people would begin to come for the convocation meetings.

After breakfast there was a time to meet more people and to give out gifts and supplies that Pastor Wade had brought from Toronto. We had a little porch off our room on the second floor where we could see most of what was going on throughout the compound.

Leadership

The visionary leader of this large ministry is known as Pastor Job, he is most often found sitting on the front porch of his house and ministers each day to all who have needs. He sits on an old chair often beside his wife and he prays for all the sick and needy of the area.

Pastor Job and his wife's only son had 4 children who are all medical doctors and most live and serve in the church ministry from leading song service, to preaching or prescribing medical help during the day or night. A number of years ago, his son who ran the Christian school was poisoned and

murdered by his driver. This event left both a big hole both in their hearts and also in the ministry, because the school had to be closed.

All that one can say is that God has raised up a remarkable family of people who have gone through many trials and struggles, but have remained true soldiers of Jesus Christ. They need our prayers daily so that they may stand strong and faithful for the Lord and His ministry call on their lives.

Healing

One afternoon I took a rest, and even though I was tired, I could not sleep immediately. It wasn't long though, after praying and asking God to give me strength because I had been feeling weak for so many years now, that I did fall asleep. I had been dragging myself around and it was one of the main reasons that at first, I did not want to go on the India trip. I even complained to my doctor about how I felt. But after he ran several tests and had me checked out again for several things, he finally stated that I should go on the India trip. It was in this state of thinking that a vision came to me.

The vision was of a glass tub full of energy. It was clear like glass but there was a tremendous light radiating from inside the tub, with electrical beams flashing out like lightning bolts from it. It was radiating a lot of power. Then I saw the hand of God take this tub of power and placed it inside of me. It was plugged into my brain and then it went along the full length of my spine on the inside. This power began to radiate into my full being. The power began to heal and restore. At that moment I woke up and I knew something powerful had happened.

It was not only a vision but soon I would realize that God had stepped in, answered my prayers, and healed me. He told me that this season of weakness was now over and He was restoring me back to full strength. But I need to be wise on how I walk and live for Him.

What follows next are some reflections on what we experienced concerning our trip and ministry with the Telugu people. We want to give testimonies of what God is doing through their and our lives as we walk in the leading of the Holy Spirit.

The People:

The Telugu people are very special and desire to serve the Lord. As you have seen, about 1.2 million of them are Christians but the majority of the people are Hindu. They are hungry for God's word and want to learn how to be a true disciple of Jesus Christ. They come together when possible from great distances for crusades so they can praise and worship Jesus Christ.

The Swine Flu Challenge:

It was also at this place that we were surrounded and in the middle of an epidemic of the swine flu. The convention doctors were handing out medicine to the people so that things would not spread though the people. Hkaw Win and I were fine and able to preach, teach and lay hands on the sick for healing.

Our Accommodation:

We were given a small bedroom on the second floor, which had a small outdoor porch where we could eat and study. There were some challenges concerning laundry. We would send out our clothes and they would come back dirtier than before they went out. We did have a community washroom that had a standard toilet but the seat was not attached and often moved around quite a bit.

The Food:

Our meals were a cross between western and Indian food. The way food was prepared was unique and often came after the crusade. In the evening, we would eat late at night somewhere between 10 and 11 o'clock. Most meals consisted of rice, boiled or fried eggs, some fruit and occasionally some meat like chicken or fish. They always served us with a great smile and the food was prepared with much love.

Transportation:

Often we travelled by a four wheel jeep, van, or car usually full to the brim with people. In the State, they do have some very good highways, but the

side roads are very broken up and small. The use of the vehicle horn seems to be essential and mandatory; you are expected to use it. On the back of all highway trucks, it says in large colourful letters "Please Honk". Another challenge that drivers have is with all the cows and goats that wonder around everywhere, and they have the right of way on all roads.

Humorous Reflections:

The people often eat with their right hand. Now that in itself is not humorous, but Pastor Job would take rice and mix it together with yogurt and crush it. He then blended it all together and took this mixture, which was close to a liquid by this time, and carefully put it into his mouth. One other thing that was interesting was to see how they dealt with cows that seem to be everywhere. The cows seem to know that they can do and go anywhere they wanted. They would sleep on the highway and it was your responsibility not to hit them. To kill one meant that you would have a three month curse placed on you. You also had to dress very poorly and walk around mooing like a cow.

Ministry Doors:

It was a great joy to preach at the crusade, thousands of people came out and lives were changed for God's glory. At the end of the crusade we had a wonderful water baptism at a nearby channel. There were over 20 candidates and all during the service doves flew over the baptism candidates. Then we had an afternoon service at church where the baptism candidates became members and had their first communion service.

Throughout the week after the convention, we had the joy of preaching in a variety of churches throughout the area, and after each service we always had a fellowship meal. Hkaw Win and I also had two other events. First we gave a name (Ebenezer School of Discipleship) and dedicated this new discipleship training school -the campus has a classroom, a chapel, dorms and eating area. They also will begin to use the Project LAMBS training materials. Secondly we had the blessing of dedicating a new church building in a distant village.

Future Vision and Ministry:

There is a great vision that the leadership team has and as God provides they will move forward. They soon hope to open up the new hospital, once government approval comes through. They also want to have travelling medical clinics that could go to various communities. Their goal is to open up a full fledge Bible school this year. Also, they are renovating some buildings into little apartments so that the poor and elderly can have a place to live. They are also waiting to restart a Christian school for the children. They have a big vision and God is already equipping leaders and staff to make this all come to fruition.

Sights and Sounds:

When you go to a new area of the world you are always bombarded by the different culture and lifestyle. We travelled to various villages, experienced new kinds of fruit and food, but we also saw many slum areas, places where people were starving, living in straw mud shacks and seem to have little hope for the future. There seems to be food everywhere, but because of their strict beliefs in Hinduism, they could not eat meat, or did not have enough money to buy food.

Special Blessings:

There were also times when Hkaw Win and I would be moved to tears. Even when they had so little, they still wanted to bless us with gifts of clothing. At the first meeting, they gave to us both a colourful sash to help keep us warm during the cool nights. They also took us to a nearby city to have special Indian clothing that was hand made for us. They also showered us with flowers and other presents. Their hearts are truly one of serving and giving where they can. Their smiles were beautiful and they loved to be hugged and spoke with you in broken English as much as they could.

Personal Reflections:

When I look back I saw the hand of God using us to minister to the Telugu people, but I also saw the hand of God working through them to teach and be examples to us of deep love and service. The reality was, so much more

could be done, but they faced challenges of resources and persecution from the other religious groups in their state. Even the Christian denominations are also struggling because many western and Asian groups come to this area with lots of money and began to pay for the pastor's salaries. They would give money on the condition that they would have to come and commit to these new leaders and their denomination. It is sad to see and hear what the believers are doing to each other. It is also sad that these people are hungry for the pure Word of God but they need dedicated and wise understanding leaders to equip them and train them for ministry.

Results:

What the trip has already accomplished is amazing. Our Bible Information Handbooks and many of our leadership books have been translated and given out to the pastors so that they can learn and help their congregation to grow. A Bible school has been started where the LAMBS material will be translated and taught in the school. People have been saved and delivered from the bondages of false religions.

But there is a need for more Bible Information Handbooks, at least another 10,000 more. More Leadership Books and resources need to be translated and printed. Lives are being touched and there is a deeper walk for Christ as they seek Him and get filled more with His Holy Spirit. People are coming to a clearer understanding of what salvation means and how they can have a deep personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

It was only a week later that we got a phone call and emails asking us to come back in October of this year. They have 450 pastors who want to come together for a week of intensive training meetings that will help them to be more equipped in preaching, also to be trained in how to use various material to disciple their church flocks.

All I can say, God was so good and He took us into a deeper walk where we could show forth His love, grace and mercy to the Telugu people. I pray that this testimony may encourage you and strengthen you into a deeper service for Jesus Christ.

What follows is a sample of our new daily devotion book and an example of a sermon outline that pastors and lay leaders will use to preach and teach from.

The Cross of Christ

Definition: cross

A frame made of wood often used for the slaying of sacrificial animals; an upright pole with a transverse bar used by the Romans to execute persons deemed to be criminals.

Scripture Reading:

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his **cross**, and follow me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." / Then Jesus looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the **cross**, and follow Me." / And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots. And the people stood looking on. But even the rulers with them sneered, saying. "He saved others: let Him save Himself if He is the Christ, the chosen of God." / "You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the **cross**." / As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the **cross** of Christ. / For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His **cross**. / For the message of the **cross** is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. / Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for

the joy that was set before Him endured the **cross**, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

**Matt 16:24-25; Mark 10:21; Luke 23:33-35; Matt 27:40; Gal 6:12; Col 1:19-20;
1 Cor 1:18; Heb 12:1-2**

Discipleship Directive:

In the times of Christ, the Romans used a cross as a method of execution of persons who were tried and deemed to be criminals worthy of death. Christ was hung on the cross to pay the penalty of our sins. One perfect human had to die so that, through Him others could have eternal life.

Dedication Prayer:

Lord Jesus, I pray today that as look at the work that you did for me on the cross, that it would become a bridge to a deeper relationship with you, that I would seek your face and do your will and that I would lay all my sins and cares of this world at the foot of your cross.

Devotional Outline:

Cross / Topical Sermon / Special Occasion

Title: The Cross of Calvary

Scripture: Luke 23:33-38

Key words: *Cross* –an instrument of death during the Romans time, made of wood in the shape of a “t”, on which convicted criminals were nailed, to die a lingering and painful death.

Crossroad – a junction where two roads cross over each other, a decision point where one has to determine which way to go.

Approach / Introduction:

Palm Sunday marked Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem, leading Him to the cross just a few days later. The cross would become the crossroads for all history and for all people. It also marked the fulfillment/completion of the Old Testament and the creating of the New Testament way of life as a disciple of Christ.

Key Scripture for reading: Luke 23:33-38

Big Idea: Today we will look at 6 truths concerning the importance of Christ's work that He accomplished on the cross of Calvary for us as His disciples.

Body /Outline:

I	The cross of Christ	Luke 23:33-38
II	Take up the cross	Matt 16:24
III	Follow me with the cross	Mark 10:21
IV	Persecution for the cross	Gal 6:12
V	Peace through the cross	Col 1:20
VI	Power of the cross	I Cor 1:18

Conclusion: The disciple needs to make a decision to take up the cross of Christ, denying himself, and following Christ and His teachings.

The cross can never lose its power.

Telugu, India



Welcoming Sign



Pastors Wade, James, Hkaw Win, Job & family



Home away from Home



New Bible Information Handbook in Telugu



Hkaw Win's New Look



New Book: Disciple's Prayer life in Telugu

Telugu, India



Convocation Services



Food Preparation



**Hkaw Win
with the ladies**



**New Discipleship School
Library and Chapel**



**Church Dedication
/ Outreach Services**



**New Hospital & Clinic
/ Baptism**

Prayer Requests:

For physical health and strength for Hkaw Win and I as we write, preach and teach this summer.

For protection and strength for our staff and fellow labours in Myanmar, Thailand and India.

For our leadership and resource materials as they get printed and translated - in Canada, Thailand, Myanmar and India.

For our family members' health and protection.

For the Kachin people as they have entered into their fifth year of war and are still being attacked by the Burmese army, but now are also being attacked by the Indian government.

For the financial needs of the Project L.A.M.B.S. ministry throughout the world.

For wisdom and understanding from the Holy Spirit as we plan and put into place the fall and winter calendar and travel plans.

Calendar:

For the month of July and August we will be ministering in a variety of churches throughout the province of Manitoba.

Please Note:

We at Project L.A.M.B.S. will be using mail service again for our News Reports, because we want to keep our list of names and addresses away from the internet. We will only send out urgent prayer requests or special needs.

Soon our new website will be up and running, but this site will be in transition as we add new materials. This will be the main place where people can get discipleship courses, leadership booklets and some resource materials.

PROJECT L.A.M.B.S. INTERNATIONAL



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