

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
Tamil Nadu, India Vol. 1 No. 2

Chapter Two: Tamil Nadu, India

Background:

Size and population

- 74 million people
- 50, 216 square miles

Main people group

- Tamil, one of oldest languages in India, dating back to 3000BC
- Christianity, 2.6 million or 5.5% of the state's population



People Group: Tamil

- The word “*Tamil*” in the Tamil script : தமிழ்

Place of Ministry: Chennai (Madras), Tamil Nadu, Southern India

After finishing up at Chebrole, we left late at night to go to Vijayawada where we got a few hours of sleep before Jossi and his mother, Grace, helped us to board a train to Chennai. The train trip would take us south on an 8 hour ride along the coast of the Bay of Bengal. We had an air-conditioned coach which helped to make the long trip bearable. The train was electric and was full of many different kinds of people.

Our home at the end of our destination was the city of Chennai which is mostly populated by the Tamil people group. In the state there are about 74 million people and about 5.5 % are Christians. This would

be our new home for the next 5 days, living at the local YMCA downtown. At the train station we were met by two people who brought two small cars. We went with our new friend Pastor David, who was Pastor Victor's (senior pastor at the church we would minister at) son-in-law. Pastor Victor has been to Canada several times. He was the head visionary of a large church which also had at least 40 satellite churches in the suburbs of the city and in the surrounding communities.

The train station was packed, but we got through the hordes of people and found our cars for a short trip to the YMCA. It wasn't long after making copies of our passports that we were checked into our room.

After a brief time Pastor David headed out, but promised he would be back later with Pastor Victor to meet us in our room where we would discuss the week's agenda, and how we could exchange some US dollars into rupees. After the meeting we headed out to get some food and soon headed back to get cleaned up and try to get a good night's sleep.

Leadership

Pastor Victor is the senior leader and has been greatly used by God to build a true lighthouse of God's Word to a community of people. He is tall and a man of vision. Several years ago his wife went home to be with the Lord. At that time, he invited his son-in-law back from the Philippines where he pastored a church. Pastor David, together with his wife and one child, are now beginning to carry the load of the ministry at the church. We need to continually pray for this growing ministry.

The People:

The Tamil people are a strong and hard working group of people. Our time was mostly in the city, but the people that we met were kind and loving. The Christian people we met were dedicated and

desiring to serve the Lord Jesus all they could. The streets were full of people for what seemed to be 24 hours a day.

Our Accommodation:

The first night we stayed at an older room in the YMCA on the top floor. Our room reservation came with a free breakfast each day. This was good while the convention was on, but after the meetings were over things got very simple and sparse. The next morning they wanted us to move to another room that was supposed to be cleaner and nicer, but I really didn't think so. Also our time at the YMCA happened at the time of their 150 year celebration of ministry in the country of India. The guest speaker was from Australia.

The Food:

Many of the people were vegetarian so for many of the restaurants this was all they sold. Much of the food was typical Indian foods made with a variety of spices. The food we liked was roti, and many places you would use your right hand to eat with. It was also very hot throughout the day, so it was important to drink a lot of fluids. We also were taken out one night to "Subway" so we could take some sandwiches back to our room for supper.

Transportation:

As you know, we are in India and there are lots of cars, other vehicles, and people are everywhere. We were often picked up by a car or taxi and traveled to a variety of places where we would speak. The streets were narrow and it took time to get to anywhere one needed to go. It was noisy, as the horn was always being used all around us, not to be rude, but to let us know where the other drivers were in relationship to us. The lines on the road most often meant nothing as a two lane road could have four lanes of traffic going in the same direction.

Humorous Reflections:

Hkaw Win decided that the best way to get our clothes cleaned was to send them out through the YMCA management. Unfortunately, they did not come back for days and when they did come back, they were still wet even though they had been ironed. Secondly, they lost some of our clothing and no one seems to know where they went to, but they are gone now into the great clothing heaven in the sky.

Another interesting thing that happened at the YMCA was during the convention time, people all thought I was the guest speaker. They kept coming to our table introducing themselves to us and giving us their business cards.

It was also interesting that in this area of the country, restaurants were called hotels. They are not a place to sleep, but only a place to eat. We ate at a large vegetarian hotel several times.

Sights and Sounds:

One thing I never thought I would be able to do was to go to the place where the apostle Thomas went to and see a people group who became disciples of Christ Jesus. Yes, today their faith seems to be more based on tradition than a personal relationship. We were also at the place where he would be martyred. We went to two locations: one was the church of St. Thomas Basilica where Thomas' tomb is located, and we also went up to the mountain that overlooks the city where Thomas would often go to pray. This was where he was stabbed by a spear and martyred.

Later we went down to the Bay of Bengal. Several things we saw there were the fishing boats and the fish market. But this was also the place where the wave of destruction crashed on to the coast which reached over one and a half stories high. You may remember the 2004 tsunami, a wave that crashed onto the coast killing thousands of people.

It wiped out the whole fishing community, and everything the people owned was gone. They are still tearing down the old buildings and replacing them with new ones and many people live in fear that someday this may happen again.

As we travelled around in the car, to our amazement we saw a lot of big Christian bookstores throughout the city. There were so many books, both in English and the Tamil language. Many of the classic teacher's testimonies and books were being reprinted and sold very cheaply. It was also exciting to think that soon many of our Project LAMBS books will join this great outreach ministry.

Ministry Doors:

It turns out that the week's schedule was a little like the following, remember things are always subject to change as you know:

- Pastor training service where we equipped about forty pastors with the "Gospel of Christ" showing them how to proclaim it and teach it to others.
- Preaching in a Friday night service where we met many special people who had little, but had a heart full of love, desiring to kneel on the ground and lift up their hands to Jesus Christ as a sign of total surrender.
- Preaching two Sunday morning services in the mother church and we went back again in the evening. It was a real highlight again seeing the hunger that the people have for the Word of God.
- We had one day where we would be taken around to some various sites to learn more about the history of Christianity and how Thomas, one of the disciples of Christ, brought the Gospel of Christ to this part of India.
- It was exciting to meet with the head of one of the largest Christian printing companies in India who wanted to print our

Bible Information book, both in English and into the Tamil language. He was also wanting to reprint our English leadership booklets so that people could have more materials to help them in their discipleship walk with Christ. We were encouraged by the leaders to start writing magazine articles on various discipleship topics that they could use in their monthly “Word of Christ” Magazine.

Future Vision and Ministry:

They desire to train more leaders both for the mother church and also for the many expanding satellite churches. There is a need for small discipleship schools to begin this fall. It is a high priority because without building a strong leadership base of men and women, the church will be weak and shallow in their faith in Christ. We as fellow believers need to come alongside them in prayer and support, and God may be putting on some of our hearts to go there and begin teaching and giving to these people the precious seed that is so needed, so that they, through faith, may go out and sow it forth amongst their nation.

Special Blessings:

For Hkaw Win and I, it was a real blessing to go out into the village churches to see how God is raising up people to become His lighthouse in such a dark place. The pastor and his family truly sacrifice all that they are and have for the Church of Christ Jesus. They love the people and the people are coming to a deeper walk with Christ in spite of so many trials, rejection and persecution that often comes from their family members and from the community that they live in.

The Senior Pastor (Victor) of the mother Church, ministers with much love, both in words and through so many charitable actions. He seems to always have time to give out a word of encouragement to the

weary soul. He personally showed us so much love and made sure that we were well looked after and cared for wherever we went.

Hkaw Win was also blessed when she was given the opportunity to teach and minister on Saturday to a ladies College and Career group. She ministered in English and then had to work with a translator to communicate with the people. God's anointing was again present and her teaching strengthened the ladies for service in Christ Jesus.

Personal Reflections:

For many years I have taught the nine principles of the Gospel of Christ and I am always amazed how often pastors and leaders do not know or understand this simple truth concerning Jesus Christ. The Good news can be stated with these nine points:

1. The Virgin Birth of Christ
2. The Life of Christ
3. The Death of Christ
4. The Resurrection of Christ
5. The Ascension of Christ
6. The sending of the promise of the Holy Spirit
7. The birthing forth of the Church of Christ
8. The second coming of Christ
9. The heavenly reign of Christ with His believers

Mark tells us to go out and preach the gospel to all nations (Mark 16:15), but most people do not know these key points. They do not realize that these are the points that many cults and false religions attack and proclaim not to be true. These are the truths of Christ that the Holy Spirit uses to set the captive free.

Again it was evident that there is tension between the various religions and people groups. They may not speak openly with each other, but there seems to be a simmering of deep feelings both in religion

and with the old cast society beliefs. Many people are still poisoned or often just disappear.

Praise the Lord that there are still many that believe in the power of prayer, and desire to worship God with all their hearts, but sometimes fear can overwhelm their faith. They feel somewhat safe in the churches, but out in the community the cost of proclaiming the gospel of Christ can cost them their lives.

Results:

It is always hard to measure results, but in the beginning when you first go to a place, a lot of seeds get planted and through the power of the Holy Spirit, these seeds begin to germinate and in due time they begin to produce a harvest that will glorify the name of Christ Jesus. Some seeds planted were the giving of materials to train people for the ministry of Christ to help equip people for service. The Bible Information books are going to be printed in both English and Tamil where they will be made available for the church people to use. Many of LAMBS leadership books will also be translated and printed. A new small discipleship school, using LAMBS materials we hope will help in preparing the people for the ministry. There is a great vision by the current leadership to see many more churches to be planted in the Tamil state, but they know that for this to happen, leadership training and equipping must occur first.

On The Road Again

After the week was over we flew back to New Delhi where we would take one day of touring around the city and then that night we would meet up with Pastor Cliff and Donna Stalwick and Pastor Paul and Lynn Reich from Alberta. The next day we would head off together to Nagaland.

Sample of a Daily Devotion

Abundant Living

Definition:

To have more than one needs, a large amount or quantity of something; an overflowing amount; to have plenty of.

Scripture Reading:

And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and **abundant** in goodness and truth, /... I have come that they may have life and that they may have it more **abundantly**. / For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive **abundance** of grace and the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. / Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly **abundantly** above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, / not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us **abundantly** through Jesus Christ our Saviour, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. / Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His **abundant** mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Ex 34:6; John 10:10; Rom 5:17; Eph 3:20; Tit 3:5-7; 1 Pet 1:3-5.

Discipleship Teaching Principle:

Faith in Christ moves us into being one with Christ, He has given to the disciple the gift of an abundant life, which started the moment that we receive Christ personally into our hearts. He pours out on and in us an abundance of grace, mercy, love and power so that we can live a victorious life here on earth. We need to see in our hearts that we are abundantly blessed by God, moment by moment.

Sermon Outline:

Title: God, the God of Abundance

Key Scripture:

John 10:10 ... I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Big Idea:

Today we will look at 6 truths concerning our understanding of how Christ makes it possible for us to live an abundant life in God.

Body / Outline:

- I. Abundance of goodness and truth
Ex 34:6**
- II. Abundance of life for all who will receive it
John 10:10**
- III. Abundance of grace that comes through Jesus Christ
Rom 5:17**

- IV. Abundance that goes far above all that we ask or think
Eph 3:20**

- V. Abundance of the Holy Spirit and power
Tit 3:5-7**

- VI. Abundance of mercy through faith that leads unto salvation
1 Pet 1:3-5**

Conclusion:

We as disciples need to make a decision to die to self and live fully and completely in the abundance that Christ gives to us each day, which comes by having Him dwell in our hearts personally as our Lord and Saviour.

Tamil, India



Pastor Victor



**Pastors Victor, Pastor David,
Wife and Daughter**



Pastors Leadership Training



**Hkaw Win Teaching
a Ladies group**



**Pastor's Daughter and
a worshipper at the
village Church**



Village Worship Service

Tamil, India



**Pizza Hut Delivery
Service & City Taxi**



Vegetarian Food



Apostle Thomas' Tomb



Church Youth Choir



Tamil School Children



**Fishing slum on the
Bay of Bengal
Our tour guide Berry**

Prayer Requests:

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

For protection, strength and health for our family members, our staff and fellow labours in Myanmar, Thailand, India and Canada.

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

For the Kachin people as they have entered into their fifth year of war and are still being attacked by the Burmese army and now are being attacked by the Indian government along the Kachin State border. Plus for the people and churches who are undergoing severe flooding, in Northern India, Bangladesh, Chin and Kachin States in Myanmar.

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 agenda.

Calendar:

For the month of August we will be ministering in a variety of churches throughout the province of Manitoba. Then, as we enter into September, we will head off to Ontario to minister to a variety of pastors and areas churches.

Please Note:

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 in a variety of languages.

Secondly, we pray and hope that this little booklet will encourage you and cause you to pray more for this particular people group and for the ministry of Project LAMBS. We would love to hear from you.

Please either write us a letter or send an email, as your testimony of encouragement is like coal that causes the fire to burn more brightly for God's glory.
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