

and me, but to her and her parents it was overwhelming. She also showed me that she had already paid Rs 2,000\-\$ (45.98), which is equal to about three weeks wages like her friend Victoria would earn. This had left an outstanding bill of Rs 9,500\-\$ (\$218.39), which to her was over three month's wages at a spinning mill job which she did not have. I told her I would give her Rs 5,000\-\$ (\$114.94), which would leave her owing Rs 4,500\-\$ (\$103.45).

Now I can just hear someone saying, well Jim why didn't you pay it all. Perhaps the rest of the story will show the wisdom of not paying it all. Shella was pleased of course that I would help with the amount I had said, but that left her with little or no way to raise the Rs 4,500\-\$ before school starts again. While I was talking with the two of them, Shella realized that we had hired eight village ladies to do the work of cutting corn, weeding and other small jobs on the school property. Immediately she said, "I want to work." What was impressive to me was that the other ladies were older married women who are used to farm labor which is often hard, dirty and grubby, but this young woman of twenty was determined to be right in the midst of it. We pay Rs 20\-\$ (46 cents) an hour, which is more than the pay for work in the spinning mill. Shella will get the money, and she has shown that. Here is her picture.



CAMPAIGNING FOR CHRIST

Last month I told you there would be 1,509 Tamil brothers traversing this state on bicycles winning souls for Jesus and planting churches. Actually we ended up with 1,559 men, who have been trained over these last twenty years to do this work of evangelists. You will be thrilled to know that in the three days (April 22-24) they were able to convert 1,054, with the expectation that there will be more baptisms from residual effects of the many home studies and weekend gospel meetings.

WIDOWS AND FATHERLESS CHILDREN

Yesterday M. Peter Wilson, K. Murugesan and I spent about four hours going over requests from 180 widows and indigent people who asked for benevolent help; especially for goats and milking cows. We approved 122 of the applications, but on some we need more information. Among the 122 widows there are 114 fatherless children. I want to thank all that have taken part in "Operation Compassion," because without this help we could not reach out to these who are on the lowest totem pole of poverty. Laura has prepared another widows' poster for the classrooms; if you would like one or more write her at 171 Walden Lane, Harriman, TN 37748. I am due back in the U.S. May 31.

In Christian love,

Jim E. Waldron

Jim E. Waldron

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FLYING THE OCEAN IN A SILVER PLANE

My flight from Knoxville to Newark, NJ on April 13th departed four hours late due to bad weather in NJ which prevented planes from landing. We did arrive in time to catch my 8:30 p.m. flight from Newark, on Continental to Mumbai, which is a massive city located on India's west coast with a population of more than 20,000,000. The flight is non-stop and the distance is 8,130 miles; it takes about 14.5 hours.

PASSING OUT DIPLOMAS TO BIBLE STUDENTS

The flight from Newark landed at 8:50 p.m. one day later (14th). I spent the night in Mumbai and flew the next morning (15th) to the deep south to Chennai, the capital of Tamil Nadu, where brother James Raj Kumar met me and drove us the 55 miles to the town of Arakonam where I handed out certificates to sixty-three brothers who have completed two years of Bible studies in evening schools in seventeen different villages. A brother whose name is G. Stephenson is the one who works with the seventeen teachers in this program.

ARAKONAM GRADUATES



India has 1.2 billion people with many massive cities, but the greatest numbers of people live in villages. Thus after many years of having students come to central locations to learn the word, two years ago Don Iverson and I decided to use brothers who had graduated from the three-year regular schools to teach in night schools in the villages.

The next day, Saturday April 16th, I again passed out certificates for evening Bible class students in Chennai. This time there were 52 of them also representing 17 villages. Brother James Raj Kumar works with the seventeen brothers who teach in these night schools. We pay no wages to the teachers or support to the students, but we do provide a meal like beans and rice each evening and funds (a little over \$70) at the end of the year to buy a bicycle, sewing machine or other needed item.

GRADUATION IN THE STATE OF KERALA

On Friday the 22nd J. W. Samson drove our little Omni Suzuki from Dindigul to the town of Valliyode in Kerala, which is the small state west of Tamil Nadu. There we enjoyed the hospitality of Thampy Abraham and his wife Leelama. The food was good and I enjoyed an air conditioned room in which to sleep. The next day (April 23) I preached, with brother Thampy translating, and handed out diplomas to the eighteen graduates who had completed three years of training. There were about 300 present. In the afternoon Samson and I drove back to Dindigul, stopping in one town enroute to buy groceries for a sister who has been abandoned by her husband.

KERALA GRADUATES



BRIGHT PROJECTS IN DINDIGUL



In the picture to the left you will see some old familiar faces, that of Peter and Mercy Wilson, and their two children Jami and Jack. The reason for including their picture at this time is due to Mercy's work with graduates from our women's school, Angie Greene. Knowing that the churches in the villages need women trained in the word, last year brother Iverson came up with the idea of using Mercy to more intensely train graduates from the women's school in order that they might teach ladies classes in village settings. She has ten teachers, all Angie Greene graduates, who are married to Christians; and they in turn have a total of twenty-eight students in ten villages. Local classes meet 2.5 hours three evenings per week with a Bible test each evening. Mercy meets with all one time in a month to test the students and orientate the teachers to their class materials. It is known as the Lydia program. Mercy is pictured below behind Jami and Jack.



ANGIE GREENE GIRLS

The Coimbatore Bible Institute for women was begun in 1992 for the purpose of training young women to be good Christian wives and mothers, and to be effective Bible teachers for women and children. Generally the girls who enter the school average 18 years of age, with a village background and an average of a tenth grade education.

The Bible course lasts nearly two full years and includes 22.5 hours per week over an actual period of 48 weeks. During this time they memorize three Bible verses each day five days a week (a total of 1,440), take daily tests over whichever book of the Bible they are studying and a final over each book. Besides this during the time they are not studying the scriptures they study typing and other courses to improve their learning skills; those who have not completed high school may study for their GED.

ANGIE GREENE STUDENTS 2010-2011



A number of these young women have married gospel preachers and have greatly enhanced the effectiveness of their husbands. In fact these young sisters, who are filled with the word of God, are amazing in many walks of life. Just this week I told Laura I am amazed at the lives of some of these girls, who are saturated with the word of God. Hopefully sometime in the future we may put together a book about some of them.

SHANTA SHELLA

On April 20th two Angie Greene graduates came to see me at the school property near Dindigul. One was Victoria Jayabal who graduated about four years ago and has a good job in a local spinning mill; the other's name is Shanta Shella. She is twenty and a 2009 graduate from the women's school. During these last two years she has been in a local college learning to be a nurse.

On this day the two had come to see me to ask if I would help Shella with her nursing school fees for the year. She showed me the bill from the school, which totaled Rs 11,500/- (\$264.37). This seems a very small amount to you