

WALDRON NEWSLETTER

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THE NORTHEAST BIBLE INSTITUTE (NBI)

This Bible school is located in the city of Guwahati, Assam, in northeast India and is one of more than twenty-five Bible training schools that we are conducting in India; all but one is staffed by native Indian brethren teaching in their own languages. NBI is the only one in which English is used as the medium of instruction. The reason for the use of English in the NE is due to the fact that the seven states in that part of India are for the most part populated by Mongolian tribal people who immigrated to the region from East Asia many centuries ago. The school met in Shillong from 2002 until March this year, when it was moved to Guwahati. The progress had been very slow in Shillong; the attendance each year had averaged about twenty-two, but we now have thirty-four men enrolled along with seven sisters, which we began taking as students last fall.



Picture #1 shows seven of the eight brothers who will graduate on August 27th. *i.e.*, the class of 2011; the brother seated at the right is Rajandran Palaniyapan, a guest teacher, who is a self-supporting gospel preacher from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. This brother comes once a year to teach a course on home and family for our students. Among the students only two are married, Warpeme Zimik, who is in the back row at the left. His wife's name is Jorita and they are expecting their first child this month. The other married brother is James Marang, who is seated on the left of the front row. His wife, Parte' serves as one of our cooks; both are from Myanmar, formerly known as Burma, which lies on India's eastern border.



Picture #2. Shows eleven young men who constitute the class of 2012 and expect to graduate next August. None are married, but several of them are actively preaching each weekend. The youngest is twenty and the oldest is Lal Comte at 31; he is seated at the right in the first row. Besides being a full time student he serves as the purchaser for the school.

Picture #3 Shows the fifteen brothers who form the class of 2013. Among all the students twelve different languages are spoken and each of them is able to speak two or three not counting English. Of interest is the brother standing in the back row at the left. His name is Sing Tarun; he is 31 and married. While I was there last month his wife, who lives in the town of Diphu, which is about a hundred miles from the school, phoned to tell him that a cobra had killed their rooster; but she in turn killed the cobra. Brother Tarun was formerly a preacher in the Baptist church and served as a traveling evangelist among fifteen churches, but he obeyed the gospel last year and has been instrumental in establishing three congregations this year after the New Testament order.



Picture #4 Shows the seven young sisters that are enrolled in the school. From the left on the front row their names are Dalimi who grew up in a Hindu home with five siblings and is the only Christian in her family; C.C. Won, her name indicates how strong the Chinese and Mongolian influence is among the tribes in northeast India; and Grace at 28 is the eldest of the girls, she is from a family of five siblings and all including their parents are Christians. In the second row is Nalin, who is from the Karbi tribe, which occupies a large portion of the state of Assam. By God's grace there are sixteen Karbi men who are presently in a SOP or have finished; and Acha is from the Lisu tribe in Arunachal Pradesh, which joins hard to China and is covered by the Himalaya mountains. She must walk four days to get to her village. The two on the back row are, Sani (pronounced, Sunny), and Tanglik. All these sisters are fluent in several languages.

FOLLOW UP ON JULY DEBATE WITH THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

Last month our report was about the work of Joseph Kathi and Markus Kisku. The two points that stood out in that report were 1) Joseph's debate with the pastor of the Free Will Baptist church on July 1st in the town of Ghospukur; and 2) the conversion of five men out of that church the next day. In regard to the new congregation you can be sure we are always concerned about the follow-up efforts to strengthen new congregations that they may learn to meet each Lord's day to break bread (Acts 20:7); and to know of further additions. To this end I inquired of Joseph, not only about the new congregation, but I wanted to know how many congregations they had begun since going there to do the work of evangelists in August 2009. Under the title: Work Report, he wrote

*Bagdogra, West Bengal, N.E. India
July 14th,*

Dear brother,

Re: The new church at Ghospukur:

Warm greetings in His matchless name. I pray that this mail will find you in sound health. As I reported before after the debate held on the 1st of July 2011 we had on the next day five conversions at Bagdogra river.

The people who were baptized into the church of the Bible are really very much genuine and are very sorry for the days which they pretended to be for God, but were actually not. The day (July 2nd) when they were ready for the baptism, before the baptism they cried and were really pricked in their heart for the wrong doing and (having been) led astray.

This was the first time I had ever seen denominational people crying for the sake of truth and sorrow for their past deeds. It was really a time of Joy. One man, aged 85, who had been a member of the Free Will Baptist Church for about 20 years also was crying and was ready for what he called a second baptism, but actually was the first one. "He said I don't want to risk my salvation."

Joseph Kathi

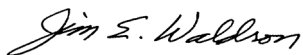
In a subsequent letter Joseph reported that eight others had obeyed the gospel so that there are now thirteen members in the church at Ghospukur. He also reported that they had established or help to establish eight congregations in West Bengal in the two years they had been in Bagdogra.

A CHANGE OF PACE

TAMIL NADU and KERALA are the two most southern states of India and they are the region where so very many brothers (about 2,000) have been trained to preach over the past 25 years. Because of this preacher training work the churches have grown rapidly and even more men want to attend the schools. In fact as of June this year there were 218 brothers in those states that were ready to train as evangelists, but due to the strong downturn in the U.S. economy I had to ask them to wait three months to see if we would be able to support them, but as August is coming to a close I have had to notify the brethren that we cannot carry out our plans for the regular training. If we had the students training in the usual manner it would cost monthly Rs 2,000/- (\$46) each., which would mean a monthly outlay of \$10,028, not counting teachers. This we are not able to do, but it is urgent that we stay close to these brothers and give them more training. To this end I have told the brethren who are leading this effort that we will adopt the manner of training that Don Iverson has found to be successful in the southern part of Tamil Nadu. This amounts to having preacher training schools on Saturdays. The students not only spend time studying each Saturday, but jointly they go out to evangelize in twos and threes. The cost for this kind of training instead of being Rs 2,000/- (\$46) per month for each student comes to Rs 913/- or \$21. Thus I need you to ask your congregation to help us with support of one or more of these 218 brothers at \$21 a month; or you may "adopt" one or more student preachers yourself. In fact if you desire we can arrange a picture of the brother to be placed on a bulletin board or in your classroom. Please help as you are able.

Peter Wilson who, as you will remember is Mercy's husband, is also our computer specialist at Dindigul. He is fluent not only in his native tongue, Tamil, but English also. He has translated numerous books and tracts into the local language. Just this morning (August 22) I spoke with him and he has put the book called *100 Sermon Outlines* into Tamil; and gotten a quote to print 4,000 for \$4,138.00, that is less than \$1.05 each. These sermon outline books will go into the hands of thousands of village preachers, who have very few study helps. If you can help please do.

In Christian love,



Jim E. Waldron

**WALDRON MISSION FUND waldronjim1935@gmail.com
MAIN STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST, P.O. BOX 1010, CROSSVILLE, TN 38557**