

# WALDRON NEWSLETTER

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## PURE AND UNDEFILED RELIGION



KUPPAM

This sister, pictured with her new cow, is named Kuppam. She is forty-two and was brought up as a Hindu; and as their custom is, her parents paid a dowry when she was married. The couple had one daughter born to them, but later the husband abandoned mother and child. In 2007 she learned the truth and was baptized into Christ. The daughter is now twelve years old. Brother Murugesan reported that shortly after the cow was purchased, it bore a female calf.

Our sister Revathi (Raveetee), who is 37, and a widow, was left with two daughters when her husband died. The daughter shown with her is thirteen. The other daughter is fourteen. Revathi now has her own Agra-business after receiving seven goats and will receive monthly support for 24 months until she can develop her flock. Our aim is to help the widows and other indigent saints to help themselves. The small truck seen in the background is the one we bought during the tsunami work in 2005 and is used by Murgesan and others to transport goats and cows for needy saints, and to carry vegetables from Dindigul to other Bible schools.



REVATHI



MARIYAM

The sister in these pictures, Mariyam, was abandoned by her husband. Thanks be to God and to those who brought the gospel to her at the age of forty she was baptized into Christ on March 8, 2008. She not only had to endure the agony of her husband leaving, but her daughter died at the time of the delivery of her second child about four years ago and left Mariyam with two grandchildren to raise. One picture shows her and her seven goats with which she has been able to start her own livestock business. The other picture shows her with the two grandchildren.

There are very few divorces in India for generally the marriages are very stable, but as two of these ladies illustrate, there are grass widows. From the time I was knee high to a kitchen table I have heard the word "grass widow," but I never knew what it meant until sister Goldie Crabtree of Dunlap told me a few years back; it means a woman whose husband has taken off, "because (as he thinks) the grass is greener on the other side of the fence."



Mariyam & grandchildren

We began *Operation Compassion* about three years ago, which was and is simply a program where children and young people in local churches are encouraged, with the approval of the church leadership and as part of the work of the church, to give to help poor widows and fatherless children among the saints in India. Since that time we have received at Crossville \$64,716.86 for this work; and during the thirty-six months or so, we have spent above that amount to meet the needs of the father-less and widows; a total of \$88,267.00. We have helped some few brothers with severe disabilities in which case their spouses can care for the goats; or in another instance we have helped a leprous brother who could care for the goats himself. By far the vast number of those aided have been widows, those abandoned, and fatherless children.

Kuppam, Revathi and Mariyam are three of the sixty-four indigent saints whom we have been able to assist in 2011 by means of *Operation Compassion* and other gifts. Because of the gifts of young and old in churches of Christ across America we bought cows for fourteen widows and goats for fifty others this year alone. The total cost of the cows was \$6,437.00 for an average of \$460.00

per cow; with \$22,615.00 being spent for 281 goats at a cost of \$57.00 each.

Due to the fact that the churches continue to grow in south India, especially in the state of Tamil Nadu, there continues to be a buildup of widows who are very much in need of help. This is true even though we let widows wait a year or two after their baptism before we help them. In May Peter Wilson, Murugesan and I went through a stack of widows' requests for goats, cows or funds to start selling vegetables. At that time we chose 128 who were clearly in need and were truly worthy of help. In June Murugesan and another brother purchased goats or cows for 34, and gave one sister \$115.00 to start a vegetable business. This means we still have 93 who are waiting. Thus we have prepared posters for *Operation Compassion* showing examples of widows, whom we are helping; with the hope that these will spur others to get involved. Be sure and consult your elders or the men's meeting to be sure that they approve in order that God may be glorified in the church through Christ (Eph. 3:21).

The posters are for bulletin boards in classrooms that encourage young people especially to get involved not only in benevolence but in world evangelism. For our dear Lord said, "let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matt. 5:16). Feel free to order as many as you can use. Just send us your request in the enclosed envelope or write to P.O. Box 1010, Crossville, TN 37748. Please tell your relatives and friends in other congregations about the needs of these 93 widows and encourage them to get involved.

The writer of the book of James, wrote, "... he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does" (James 1:25). Again he says, "Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world" (James 1:27); and one of the evidences that Jesus was the Christ was that He preached the gospel to the poor (Matt. 11:5).



**FACULTY FOR CBI, ARULDASS STANDS TO MY RIGHT**

### **THE PASSING OF A BROTHER WHO OBEYED TWO TIMOTHY TWO TWO.**

This scripture reads, "And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." This order by the apostle Paul through the Spirit to the young man Timothy is one of the *most neglected* passages in the word of God. Such is evident when one reflects on how very few local churches have extensive and on going training classes to produce preachers and Bible class teachers. Why can't local churches train preachers? Almost universally among the churches there is a Sunday school and Wednesday evening class, each for forty minute or so, with little of no memory work and generally no tests. Wonder why intensive Bible classes cannot be conducted on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday nights. The brother named below obeyed 2 Timothy 2:2.

On September 1, 2011, brother C. Aruldass passed from this life; at the time he was 61. It is not just a cliché to say that he will be sorely missed. For nineteen years between 1992 and September 1, 2011, he served as principal of Coimbatore Bible Institute (CBI) for Single Men.

During those 19 years there were 327 young men trained to be gospel preachers, evangelists and Bible class teachers. He succumbed to a heart attack on the morning of the 1st. His wife Lilly who served as the first principal for the single women's school (known as Coimbatore Bible Institute for Women at Angie Greene) preceded him in death; both were sound in faith and loyal to our Lord. Without hesitation I can say Revelation 14:13 is applicable to both; "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. Yes, says the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors and their works follow them." Aruldass was trained to preach in the Mt. Zion School of Preaching, which was sponsored in south India by the Shades Mt. church in Birmingham, AL in the 1970s. Our brother leaves behind three sons, two of whom are married. The middle son, Stan, works as "a right hand man" to Don Iverson.

Special note: I was with the church at Upper Sinking near Centerville in Hickman County, TN on September the 4th; they are challenging their members to read the entire New Testament in 90 days; which would be a good thing for all or us to do. Since there are only 260 chapters in the NT a person could start by October 1st, read three chapters a day to complete it before the New Year starts.

We thank God for your faith, your love for Jesus, His kingdom, your prayers and help for this work. May His Father and ours bless you eternally. With love for all, Jim E. Waldron

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