

WALDRON NEWSLETTER

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ONE WEEK IN OCTOBER

October 17, Having arrived back in India on the 12th I spent four days in Guwahati in Northeast India, then on this date I flew 1,700 miles south to Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu (TN). TN is the state where we have most of our work of training native Christians to reach their own with the gospel. My flight landed at Coimbatore about 6:00 p.m. and brothers K. A. Krishnan and Stan Perveen met me and took me to the campus of the Coimbatore Bible Institute.

There are two sections of this Bible School; one is a two year school of preaching for single men and the other is a two year Bible School to train young single women to be good Christian wives and mothers and to teach ladies and children. In the two years the young people are in the school, they, men and women, attend Bible classes 22 hours a week, five days each week, and memorize three scriptures each day; 1,440 in all. There are at present 37 men and 37 women in each section. The property where the schools are located is known as Angie Greene, having been named after the young Christian woman from McMinnville, TN who died in the Value Jet crash in May 1996.

The principal of the women's school is Arasu (31) wife of Abraham; the boy's school has been without a principal since C. Aruldass passed on the 1st of September. There were several reasons for coming to the south; appointing a new principal for the young men's school was at the top of the list. In the quest to get the right man, I consulted Don Iverson before leaving the States for Don has been a ball of fire in this work since 1997. Not only so, but he is knowledgeable of the brothers that would possibly be candidates for the position of principal. The two of us agreed that brother Aruldass' middle son, Stan Perveen, would be ideal, although I did not want the decision to be totally up to the two of us.

October 18, This morning I asked the staff from both schools to meet with me; there were four brothers and five sisters. We discussed the graduation that will take place in April 2012, which will mark the twentieth year since the school was opened. There have been a total of 928 who have graduated over the last 19 years; 329 men and 599 women. We discussed many things including 1) Ways to encourage the students in their spare time to learn a trade and/or get their GED; 2) Painting the original building; known as Angie Greene, 3) Building a toilet and bathing room for the quarter's of the boys' supervisor, 4) Holding a two-day Bible Camp for all graduates and their families in April; 5) Getting the male students more involved in area evangelism and the girls involved in teaching ladies and children. After our general discussions were over I gave each of the nine a piece of paper and asked them to designate who they thought would be a good principal for the men's school; they overwhelmingly named Stan as their choice. Thus later in the day I announced that Stan would be the new principal of the Coimbatore Bible Institute for men. Stan is 31 years old, married with one daughter. His wife's name is Megala and the daughter's name is Rachel.

In the afternoon of the same day (18th) we met with brother Thampy Abraham who is the principal for the school of preaching in Viliyode in the state of Kerala, who had come the 80 miles from his home to meet me about the work in that state. Kerala is the size of the state of Delaware with a population of 35,000,000. Thampy does an excellent job and presently has 72 brothers enrolled in the Malabar Bible Institute. The cost is only \$58 per head a month. At this meeting he expressed a need for 300 Bibles which cost \$3.12 each or a total of \$936 and a hundred New Testaments at \$1.05 each. He and his family have provided a place for the church and the school to meet, but they need some more chairs: fifty at a cost of \$6.65 each; he also needs funds for tracts. I had to say to him that it will be a while. In the evening J. W. Samson and I went in our little Suzuki the hundred miles to Dindigul arriving about 10:00 p.m.

Thursday October 19, Today I met with the staff of the Dindigul Bible School, J. W. Samson, Peter Wilson and Murugesan. We also had some ladies come from the village to pick corn and okra from our fields to take to the home for orphans near Coimbatore and to the students in the Coimbatore Bible Institute, which brother Murugesan took on Saturday in our truck. With Samson driving





the Suzuki he and I went to Mulanur which is about 75 miles from Dindigul. Our purpose was to meet with brothers who are preaching in that area. A Dindigul graduate, Mahaliappan, each month invites the area preachers to come together for fellowship. To our amazement 47 came. Some of these men were graduates from Dindigul in the early 1990's, but I had not seen them for years, yet they are still serving our Lord in spite of poverty.

Another delightful event on this trip occurred when Samson and I were invited to brother Mahaliappan's house for lunch, where we met two of his neighbors who turned out to be Angie Greene girls. In the picture of the three ladies the one on the left, Chitra,

graduated in 1998. She is 29, married with two children. She is also one of the sisters Mercy Wilson has trained in teaching village women. The sister in the middle is Eswary, who graduated in 1999, she is married with one son. The third sister is the wife of Mahaliappan and they have two children.



Friday October 20, Back at the school in Dindigul I had Murgesan put the roto-tiller on the



tractor and to turn under some ground cover we had planted for the purpose of enriching the soil. In the afternoon I packed for my train trip that evening to Chennai, the state capital of Tamil Nadu. In the late afternoon a number of us went to the home of Ponamal for a gospel meeting service. She is the sister in Christ who lost an arm to cancer about ten years ago, has four children, and came out of Hinduism about five years ago to obey the gospel. Her husband is still Hindu, but she is an example of a hard-working Christian who is like the worthy woman of Proverbs 31. Her village is Hindu and they show little interest in the gospel, but she and her three daughters have a great influence on the children of the village. The picture shows 27 young people at the gospel meeting in front of her little two room house.

Saturday October 21, 2011, At 9:00 last night I took a train the 240 miles north to Chennai, TN. Brother James RajKumar was at the Egmore station when the train arrived at 6:10 a.m.. We drove about 70 miles west of Chennai and had breakfast with brother G. Stephenson. Both he and James work with village Bible schools. Stephenson works with 17 brothers who are teaching in that number of villages in the state of Tamil Nadu and Andra Pradesh. James works with 16 such village schools in the area of the capital. After breakfast the three of us spent the day traveling about 225 miles to visit six of the village schools with which Stephenson works. It was a good chance for me to see what is taking place in these various locations. Some of the schools meet in homes, some in thatched sheds. It has long been our policy not to build buildings for if we did we would deprive them of that struggle and we would be spending great amounts of money on buildings and have nothing with which to train preachers. However, one thing we have been trying to do in the last three years, in order to pump prime, is to tell the churches if they will build their buildings up to the roof we will give them \$300 to help them put a roof on it. Two of the six churches we visited are in need of that help. One of these can be seen with a thatched roof on their building.



For the month of November I will be enjoying the help of a brother from Crossville, TN, Elon Thomas, who will be teaching the Minor Prophets to our first year students at Guwahati. Beloved please help us as you can; my prayer is for each of you that the God of all grace will bless you and yours always. In Christian love, Jim E. Waldron

NOTE "A MACEDONIAN CALL": As this newsletter was being formatted news came from Jim at the Guwahati airport. A graduate of the NE Bible Institute now preaching and supported by a local congregation in Mumbai requested that he come to help him defend the truth against some American men who are trying to convince the churches in India that it is wrong for them to support orphaned children. Colin Martin, whose father also preaches in Mumbai, and whom we told you last month is a student at Guwahati now, is with Jim and will serve as translator in Mumbai.

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