

A NEW LOCATION FOR THE BANGALORE DEBATE

A correction from last month for some, who need to know, is that the place for the debate in Bangalore has been changed to the Christian Workers Center No. 5, Jaya Mahal Extension Nandi Durga Road, Bangalore, 560046, S. India. The debate which will be conducted on November 19th will deal with the questions: Is the church’s benevolence restricted to saints only and may one church send funds to another for the purpose of evangelism?



We covet your prayers to our heavenly Father that truth may reign, and that the faith of our Indian brethren will be increased and they will not be deceived by error. The location was changed after we had printed October’s Bulletin.

NEW KING JAMES NEW TESTAMENTS

Hopefully all those who requested a sample of these new testaments has received their copy by now. If not, please let us know.

An order for 4000 has been shipped from India and is due to arrive in the States by the middle of November. Pending orders for more than one copy will be filled at that time. Thank you for your orders and for your desire to see the Word distributed throughout the world.



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BULLETIN BRIEFS

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AN EXCEPTIONAL OPPORTUNITY IN THE HISTORY OF WORLD EVANGELISM

An earthquake occurred in the landlocked country of Bhutan on September 21st and it provides a unique door for the blessed gospel to reach that benighted land. Bhutan is a small country that lies above the northeast portion of India being bordered on the north by China. The country has a king, who has a benevolent attitude toward his people, which is illustrated by the fact that he turned his country into a democratic – monarchy in 2008. Its landscape, which has some plains in the south that are tropical, is dominated by the Himalaya Mountains with some peaks reaching to 23,000 feet.

The earthquake was of a magnitude of 6.1, but due to the remoteness of the area reports were sketchy at first as to the true extent of the deaths and damage. It was good to learn later that the death toll was not high, but hundreds of houses were destroyed and thousands were sleeping in the open through fear of after shocks.

With 14,824 square miles it is about half the size of South Carolina (31,113 sq. miles). The total population is just under 700,000 and the vast majority of them are Buddhists with some being Hindu. The king is Buddhist. Through its long history it has been fiercely independent and has resisted foreign influence. Even now they



charge \$200 per day when foreigners visit the country. They are particularly opposed to efforts by denominational missionaries to enter the country. Thus there are very few Catholics or Protestants among its masses.

This fact along with the earthquake may give an exceptional opening to the church of our Lord. As many American brothers who have gone abroad know, to our chagrin, in most places where we go to work the Roman Catholics, Anglicans, Baptists, Presbyterians, *et. al.*, have been there before us.

Yet the fact that we have a number of native brothers who have been trained in the northeast of India over the last few years means we have qualified men able to enter Bhutan now.

Not only so, but a fellow American laborer, Garry Jones of Clinton, TN, who works with us in training gospel preachers in northeast India, was in India setting up another school of preaching in the region when the earthquake hit. There are twenty-three students in it.

When I heard about the quake I sent word to him to phone me, which he did and we discussed the possibility of him entering Bhutan to see if we could aid victims and open the door for our Lord Jesus and His church. He said that he was willing and able to go almost immediately, but due to their exorbitant fees (\$200 a day) even for a tourist to enter five days would cost \$1,000. In fact Garry entered the country earlier this year, stayed only three days and had to pay \$600. He did learn, however, that there is one small church of Christ that meets in a home. One brother works for the United Nations.

Since this fee would be an extremely difficult burden to overcome, we came to the conclusion that he ought to approach the authorities and ask for it to be waved in order that he might enter with medicine and other dire necessities for the people displaced by the earthquake.

This he did and, wonders upon wonders comparable to Paul getting an audience with some Roman authorities (e.g., Acts 25:21-23), he was able to speak directly with the governor of the eastern region of the country where the earthquake took place and was told that his visa requirements would be waved and no fees charged. Although Garry did not get to meet this

governor as he was very encouraging and even told our brother that they needed to change their constitution to allow such help as ours.

Garry reported these things in a call on Thursday the 24th, then the next morning at 8:30 I again spoke to him and said I would send \$3,000.00 by Western Union. Since he intended to buy in quantity, tents, tarpaulins, rope, blankets, corrugated rubber sleeping mates, buckets and much medicine to give to those who have colds, sore throats, fever, chills, malarial, flu like symptoms, etc.; and rent a car with a driver to get to the country he asked for \$5,000.00. I said okay and although we had to borrow funds to replace it, it was sent the same day.

Garry received another call from the provincial governor of that Saturday and was told that he had just come from the prime minister's office and although he, the governor, could not meet him upon his arrival others would welcome him. After that call he collected the \$ 5,000.00 (Indian Rs 235,500.00), took a taxi to the border where he was met by an army escort with a large military truck with a canopy cover. With this escort he was ushered into the country with no fees or visa being required. The soldiers then went with Garry and the other brothers to buy the needed items. The bed of the truck was packed to the top and the medicines placed in the cab area which was quite large.

Later Garry reported that he was received with much courtesy by the officials in the capital and told that they expected him to come in the new year. He took note of the fact that the governments of Nepal and India as well as the Indian army had sent some help, but that we were one of the few non-government organizations to help.

This open door into this country which has rigorously resisted foreign influence especially that of churches is an enormous blessing from the Lord. It is my concern and prayer that we may be able to take advantage of it; for such rarely comes in a life time. Garry and I hope to go in late January or early February. Please pray for Bhutan, its young king and the 700,000 lost souls. For if God wills, in spite of the human tragedy from the earthquake in Bhutan there may be an opening for the unpervverted gospel of Jesus to be widely preached in that kingdom.

Speaking of our training schools there are at present in four states fifteen such schools with 451 enrolled with which I work directly. The average cost is \$50 per student, which means that we must send over \$22,000.00 each month for the support of the students. While the brothers are in school we encourage them to learn a trade in order that they may be tent making preachers, then send them out with a bicycle. These do not include the schools conducted by Garry and Don Iverson.

By the grace of God this training work has been going on since 1989 and they have born and are bearing much fruit to the glory of our heavenly Father. Through the care of God I hope to see my 74th birthday on November 4th and I will return to India a week later (the 10th) to visit among the schools and if we have the support make arrangements to begin two more preaching schools in new districts in the new year. Some congregation may want to take on a school as their own project, if so please let me know.

We already have graduates working in those areas. Please help us, for some must go and some must send (Rom. 10:14-15); and such requires self denial. Perhaps the congregation where you are might desire to support two or three to help us expand the effort to train faithful men and follow up on this effort in Bhutan. If you wish to help, please send to P.O. Box 1010, Crossville, TN 38557.

WE WANT TO THANK

All those who gave through their own congregations to "Operation Compassion" to help the many poor Christian widows with goats or a cow. On my trip this time I will have posters printed that will show our dear sisters receiving their own goats or cow. Please write to me at P.O. Box 1010, Crossville and tell me how many such posters you need for your classrooms and bulletin boards. Would you believe it, we can have such posters printed in India in color for ten cents each. Also if you sent funds for the widows and did not receive an acknowledgement then let us know the amount and when you sent it.

