

MARKETING MISSIONS

Jim E. Waldron

The Indianapolis Star, April 23, 2005: “**Westlake Church of Christ, 612 N. High School Road, is having a square dance from 6 to 8 p.m. today to raise money for the teen mission trip. Call (317-244-3974).**”

Ibid., www.indystar.com; April 30, 2005: “**Westlake Church of Christ will have a hog roast from 4 to 8 p.m. May 7. The dinner is \$7.50 for adults and includes a pork sandwich, potato chips, pickle spear, baked beans and a drink. The child’s dinner is \$3.50 and includes a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, chips and a drink. Proceeds will go toward a teen mission trip with adult chaperones to the Turks and Caicos islands the first week of July. Tickets may be purchased in advance at the church office, 612 N. High School Road, Indianapolis. For more information call (317-244-3974).**”

Churches that follow the Spirit’s orders and raise funds by **freewill offerings** on the first day of the week (I Cor. 16:1-2) are fulfilling their God-given obligations to do evangelism, edification and benevolence and are doing the Fathers’s will (See Matt. 7:21; Mark 16:15-16; I Cor. 9:7-14; Gal. 6:6; Acts 11:22-23; II Cor. 9:1-2, 12).

But the Holy Spirit has not authorized the church to take advantage of a free enterprise system or any other marketing plan to go into business selling pies, old clothes, dinners, car washes or promoting dances. To do so is to clearly go beyond what is written (II Jno. 9).

Contrast the concept of marketing missions above with this letter we received at Crossville:

“May 18, 2005: I have made modest contributions to the Waldron Mission Fund from time to time, never as much as I wanted to, but as much as I could afford at the time. I just celebrated my birthday— or actually, the beginning of my ‘birthday season’ on May 16 (my actual birthday). My ‘birthday season’ will conclude on Memorial Day. I use the time between now and then to examine my long life as a Christian (baptized 60 years ago at 16) and to do special things in the name of the Lord. After prayer, I have decided to send Waldron Mission Fund a check each month in the amount of \$12.50. May God bless this ‘Widow’s Mite’ as He has blessed me. Genie V.”

**Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than receive.”
Acts 20:35**

BULLETIN BRIEFS

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ANTI-CONVERSION LAW NOT IN FORCE SAYS CHIEF MINISTER

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE (*Sunday Express* excerpts) Chennai, May 21, 2005: Chief Minister (the state governor) Jayalalitha today countered the move from certain quarters to spread the idea that the anti-conversion law introduced by the state in 2002 was still in force.

“I would like to make it absolutely clear that Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Forcible Conversion of Religion Act has been totally repealed, and as such the law is not in force now,” she said in a statement.

She pointed out that she had announced on May 18 last year that the law would be repealed and accordingly an ordinance was promulgated the same day for the repeal of the Act. Jayalalitha said that the law had been brought only to promote harmony and goodwill between various religions, and not to be used against the minorities. She had also assured the minorities at that time that it would not in any way affect their rights and freedom.

“The fact that not a single case was filed under the law since the time it was enacted is a clear proof that it was not against the minorities as a whole,” she said.

“Moreover, as the Christian and Muslim minority communities also pleaded that the law should be withdrawn fully, I announced on May 18, 2004 that the Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Forcible conversion of Religion Act would be repealed immediately,” she said.

Claiming that her government had always protected the rights and welfare of the minority communities, Jayalalitha asserted that the government would continue to remain “the protector of the minorities and the oppressed.”

IN THE WAKE OF THE TSUNAMI BICYCLE CAMPAIGN NETS 1867

In just twelve days (May 8-19) 1867 souls were reborn into the Lord's kingdom in Tamil Nadu, South India. This wonderful effort was accomplished by 1031 native Tamil gospel preachers. This was our second bicycle campaign for Christ in the wake of the December 26, 2004 Tsunami. The first one took place in January with 233 preachers baptizing 671 in ten days. Neither of the two campaigns were confined to the coastal area where the huge wave had hit, but were conducted all across the state.

Besides those converted in the two major evangelistic campaigns there were another 360 baptized in cities and villages on the coast. In other words, in less than five months (Jan. 3-May 19) there were 2898 souls added to the church (cf. Acts 2:47) as a direct result of Tsunami relief and soul winning work. May God bless all who gave and are giving to this effort.

The 1031 Tamil brothers who worked in the May campaign were carefully selected. They had to be faithful active gospel preachers trained in the word of God to be evangelists. The majority were from the twelve preacher training schools we are conducting, but a good number were brothers that had been trained in other schools. Those who wished to participate and were not currently in the schools were required to submit an application with two character references.

For many we had previously bought bicycles. We also bought at this time nearly 300 for more recent graduates. For those who had only completed one year in the school we gave them funds to rent bikes. As I have indicated before, not wanting the churches of Christ in South India to become a welfare program for the church in America, as a rule we do not put our graduates on support. The vast majority of these preachers are self-supporting or "tent-making" preachers who usually work for daily wages. We paid them Rs.100 (\$2.36) per day for the twelve days. Then on the 20th and 21st of May we asked all of them to come to Dindigul where the oldest of our schools of preaching is located for a two-day lectureship. For those two days we paid their bus fare and provided food, but no other wages.

Brother J.W. Samson, the school principal of the Dindigul Bible Institute, said lectures were conducted in the main hall, the dining hall and in two temporary sheds. In the two days twenty-six brothers spoke. The themes were (1) follow up on those who are taught, (2) get new converts worshipping on a regular basis, (3) plant new congregations, (4) work to install elders in older congregations and (5) practice integrity and holiness in personal life as the grace of God teaches us (Titus 2:11-12).

For the twelve days, each of the 1031 brothers received a total of \$27.91 in wages and \$1.82 (average) bus fare. The cost of putting up a temporary shed for the lectures, food and other needs averaged \$2.14 per person. The total cost of wages was \$28,775, for bus fare \$1,876, and the other needs was \$2,206 for a total cost of \$32,857. Thus the cost for the twelve days preaching and the two days of lectures for each was only \$31.87. This does not include the cost of bicycles bought and rented, nor the wages for cooks, etc.



FIVE MONTHS SUMMARY ON TSUNAMI WORK

Jim Waldron

By the end of April through the work of the Banner Elk, NC church and the Main Street church in Crossville, TN about 25,000 individuals in Tamil Nadu, South India had been helped with physical needs: rice, other food items, household supplies, clothes, etc. This was possible through the wonderful generosity of congregations and individuals in many places.

As sponsors of on-going work in Tamil Nadu the two churches named above were, by the grace of God, "in the right place at the right time." Banner Elk works with five schools of preaching in that state and is the sponsor of an orphans' home near Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. Don Iverson, an elder and evangelist for that congregation, co-ordinates Banner Elks' work. There are another nine Bible schools sponsored by the church in Crossville. The preacher training work began in June 1989 and about 1000 men have gone through the schools. This is why so many trained Tamil gospel preachers could be called

on to work in the relief work and in soul winning. The latter point (soul winning) has been a strong emphasis from the start (Jan. 3) by both Iverson and this writer. Besides the 1867 known conversions named above in the May 8-19 campaign the workers also distributed about 500,000 tracts. In three places along the coast pairs of gospel preachers have been located to continue to seek those who have not readjusted to the post-Tsunami economy, to win souls, plant churches and if God wills in two years open new preacher training schools.

Our greatest need just now is not funds for relief, but for the on-going efforts to train faithful Tamil Christians to reach their own with the gospel. With a population of 70,000,000 it will take an even greater effort to reach the lost. We need funds for literature (tracts, books, BCC and class materials), but especially for training preachers, which costs us about \$60 a month per person. Please ask your congregation if they can help with a lump sum or month by month.

FUTURE PREACHERS TRAINING CAMPS

Paul wrote to Timothy: "*The things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also*" (2 Tim. 2:2).

The Alkire Road church of Christ, 2779 Alkire Road, Grove City, OH 43123 (near Columbus) will host their seventh annual preacher training school for young men ages 13-18, July 10-17, 2005. Mark Bass, the local preacher and school director, said one advantage of the program was the good books that the young men are given. There is no tuition. Applications are still being taken. To get your son enrolled phone 614-875-1028.

The church of Christ at Owasso, OK is hosting its second annual future preachers training camp (July 24-29). It is a tuition free program and the church is providing food. Allan Lay, who is the director, may be reached at P.O. Box 89, Owasso, OK 74055 or phone 918-272-1564.