

cause all sinned” (Romans 5:10). That is, all sinned representatively in Adam so when he and our mother Eve were put away from the tree of life all were separated from that tree. We were cut off (Romans 5:12) from that which could have given us the power of continuous life and health on earth, not because of any sin or guilt of our own, but because of the actions of our parents in the garden.

Since we cannot eat of the tree of life on this planet and live forever (Genesis 3:22), God has “cursed the ground (because of sin being upon it) for (man’s) sake” (Genesis 3:17). In spite of the fact that infidels may scoff at this principle, God, out of a heart of love, tolerates, allows and uses suffering to persuade men to give up things that are earthly, sensual and devilish for those things that are spiritual and eternal. As it is written: "The Lord is ... not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" (II Peter 3:9).

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BULLETIN BRIEFS

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TSUNAMI WORK IN SOUTH INDIA

Jim E. Waldron

In eight months (January 9 – September 11) 1086 souls were added (Acts 2:41,47) to the Lord’s kingdom on the Tsunami ravaged coast of India’s most southern state, Tamil Nadu. As previously reported (July – *Bulletin Briefs*) between January and May there had been 360 baptized in the same area. Much of the time during the first five months after the horrible wall of water struck that state’s eastern seaboard we were busy, not only preaching and teaching, but delivering rice and other needed items by truck to about 5,000 homes. Virtually all the actual labor in this project was being done by Tamil brothers, trained as gospel preachers at Dindigul, Tamil Nadu. This is where our largest school of preaching is located.

This new number of those baptized reflects the fact that gospel preaching work and soul winning had intensified in the one hundred days following June 1st. Don Iverson (elder and gospel preacher from Banner Elk, NC), who is a fellow laborer in this work of faith and labor of love, and I know well that, “man does not live by bread alone” (Matt. 4:4); and to feed a man’s stomach without feeding his soul is like putting mercurochrome on a cancer.

These new Christians were organized into 29 new congregations along Tamil Nadu’s eastern coast and they are breaking bread each Lord’s day and hearing the word preached in their own tongue by native gospel preachers. This number (1086) is in addition to those converted (2,538) in our two bicycle campaigns in January (3-9) and May (9-19). Also, this total (3,624) does not include those baptized by our Tamil brothers in their preaching work between campaigns, which continues unabated.

DUST ON THE BALANCES

As wonderful as the number of conversions (3,624) in the wake of the Tsunami in Tamil Nadu, South India sounds we must recognize that they represent little more than dust on the balances when it comes to making an impact on the states' enormous population of 55,000,000.* Besides there are still thousands of Tsunami victims huddled in dozens of refugee camps along the coast, who are sitting with no jobs and having to depend on government rations.

God willing, and with confidence in Christ, that He, as promised, will be with us in this work always (Matt. 28:18-20), we are going to ratchet up the effort to preach the soul saving gospel to the lost and dying. We must strike while the iron

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is hot. It must be done while the masses are still agitated in mind because of the great number who died, had their homes destroyed and/or their lives disrupted by the huge wave. In some mission fields you can spend a fortune with little or no fruit, but that is not the case in the poverty stricken and Tsunami ravaged state of Tamil Nadu.

In order to raise the bar for greater soul winning we have thirteen soul saving workshops planned around the state for October 11-12, which is the time of a national holiday. The workshops will deal with the urgency of reaching the lost *and* on planting and nurturing local churches. A specific aim of the effort will be to get our brothers ready for the third bicycle campaign for 2005 – December 18-31. Well seasoned Tamil gospel preachers and the teachers from the schools of preaching will be the speakers.

In June about 225 new students came into our twelve schools of preaching in Tamil Nadu. Presently we are training 393. Adding the 225 to the 1031, who campaigned last May of bikes, means we will have some 1,250 who will attend the lectures and take part in the preaching work in December.

The vast majority of these brothers are self supporting and work for daily wages when they can get work, thus we will pay them Rs 100\- (\$2.35) each day during the campaign (Dec. 18-31). This means it will cost \$33 dollars to support one preacher for the 14 days. Concerning the workshop (October 11-12) it will not simply point to the December Bi-

cycle Campaign, but the brothers will be exhorted to put special effort into house to house evangelism in their own areas *prior* to December 18. For that phase of their work (Oct. 13 - Dec. 17) each is to be provided with 800 tracts (eight titles), then on December 17th each will receive another 800 tracts to be distributed between December 18 – 31. The first 800,000 tracts have been printed and bound in bundles of 800 for October 12. The second batch of 800,000 has been ordered from the printer. Each costs 1.6 cents.

JA little math will tell you, that even though the price per piece is low, the huge quantity means we have taken on a big printing bill. But how can we do less when souls are dying without ever seeing a gospel tract? Please speak to the church where you are and ask them send a gift for this soul winning effort (Dec. 18– 31) or give monthly to our work of training preachers (cf., II Tim. 2:2). We can train a brother for \$60 a month.

We are determined that this work will bear much fruit, (John 15:8) and we need your help. Yet, as Paul wrote to the Philipians (4:17), it is *“not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account.”* In this work I serve Jesus, under the oversight of the elders (six) of the Main Street in Crossville. If you have any questions please phone, Clyde Randolph, 931-935-5933. Send to Waldron Mission Fund, Main Street Church of Christ, P. O. Box 1010, Crossville, TN 38557. *The population has been recently revised downward.

FREE TRACT: Perry Cotham has out a new tract called *The Home*. This brother, born January 5, 1912, has preached the gospel for 76 years and is still going strong. The tract may be purchased through him at 1814 Santa Cruz, Grande Prairie, TX 75051; but in Crossville we have acquired several hundred, which we are sending as free samples. Our purpose is to advertise it for him. Please write to **Randall Standeder** at P. O. Box 123, Dunlap, TN 37327.

Katrina: If you have funds that you want to go through the church in the aftermath of Katrina, you may send it to the Church of Christ, P. O. Box 895, Port Allen, LA 70767. The preacher, Eddie Payne, is the brother, whom I wrote about earlier that does evangelism in the prison at Angola, LA. He will see that the funds are used for relief and soul winning. His phone is 225-336-0805. By giving though the local church our God is glorified (Eph. 3:21), which is not the case when one gives through a modern day missionary society that has usurped the name “church of Christ.”

WHY WAS THE HOUR OF TRAIL COMING ON THE WHOLE WORLD?

Note: The above title is a question found in the commentary on the book of Revelation called, *The Lamb/The Lion*. The term “trial” refers to a time when God was to bring plagues on the ancient world because of its arrogance and disobedience toward Him. In light of the deaths of some 225,000 around the world by the Tsunami (Dec. 26, 2004) and the death and devastation by Katrina in New Orleans eight months later (Aug. 29) we would do well to examine the question now.

Why was the hour of trial coming on the whole world? In the text under consideration (Rev. 3:10), Christ speaks of a principle of tough love that God applies to His creatures particularly when they reject or ignore His offer of eternal life. That principle was expressed by the Hebrew writer: *“Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but grievous; nevertheless, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it”* (Hebrews 12:11); and again, *“My son do not despise the chastening of the Lord... for whom the Lord loves He chastens...”* (Hebrews 12:5,6; See also Job 5:17; Proverbs 3:11-12).

From Revelation 3:10, and the whole book for that matter we can see that that rule is applicable to the whole human family; for Jesus said, that *“the hour of trial” was to “come upon the whole world to test those who dwell on the earth.”* This makes it clear that calamities, sufferings, sorrows, illnesses and disasters, which come on the human family because this is a sin-cursed world, do not come because they are sent arbitrarily by God, but do at times come to bring mankind to repentance. All humanity needs to know that death, dying and disease (cancer, heart ailments, diabetes, plagues, etc.) are in this world not because God put them here. He made everything “very good” (Genesis 1:31). Death and all its attendant evils are in this world because Satan introduced sin into this realm where man dwells (Genesis 3:1-19).

The apostle Paul tells us “through one man (Adam) sin entered the world (through the instigation of Satan – Genesis 3:4), and death through sin (which brought the consequence of being put away from the tree of life, which meant physical death – Genesis 3:22), and thus death spread to all men, be-