

for a total cost of \$14,620.00. It is difficult to imagine that for just a little over ten dollars you can support a well-trained gospel preacher to win souls over three days; besides this campaign will have long term residual effects in hundreds of villages and towns. If you can help two it will only cost \$20 or one hundred for a \$1,000; please do what you are able, with God's help.

Point #8 in my letter to the preachers was made about the brothers using their own bicycles, because we have provided one for almost all of them. There is an exception to this statement, however, because eleven young men will be graduating in April from their two years of training in the school for single men for whom we must buy bikes. A cycle, as they call it, costs Rs 3,300/- (\$75).



A group of graduates who have already received bicycles.

Sunday March 6, 2011. Just now I am in Shillong, N. E. India where the preacher training school, known as the Northeast Bible Institute, is located. Mark Bass of the Alkire Road church, in Grove City, Ohio and Aaron Seiler of the Main St church in Caldwell, OH are here teaching. Scott Richards, who is supported by the church in Griffin, GA has gone for the weekend to preach in gospel meetings where some of our graduates are located. God willing I will be home on the 11th and will not have to return here until the 15th of April. Beloved, please pray for this work of training faithful men to preach Jesus and His kingdom in this nation of 1.2 billion souls. Please be assured my prayer is like this, "Dear Father, please bless each and every individual and every congregation that shares in this work of faith and labor of love."

With love to you all,

Jim E. Waldron

P.S. As you may have heard, Bulletin Briefs, is now being published only on the internet. If you would like to receive it that way then send your request to our very efficient secretary Virginia Rothery at vrothery@frontiernet.net or you may sign up at our website www.waldronmissions.org to receive the newsletter as well as the Bulletin Briefs on line.

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Jim E. Waldron, Editor
P.O. Box 1010
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TRAINING SOUL-WINNERS & CHURCH PLANTERS

The state of Tamil Nadu is about the size of Georgia. Tamil Nadu has a population of around 75,000,000, which is about ten times that of Georgia. Brothers from Canada like James Johnson and Carl Johnson (no kin) entered the state in the 1960s and shortly thereafter began to train preachers to win souls and plant churches. James began such a school in the state capital at Madras (now called Chennai), and Carl conducted such a school in the Blue Mountains of South India near the village of Ketti with support from the Shades Mountain church in Birmingham, AL. Today Dennis Johnson continues to work with the school his father James began in 1967. The school in Ketti closed sometime after brother Carl returned to Canada

My first visit to India was in 1972, with a second trip in '83, both times the purpose was to research the opportunities of training men to preach. My actual work in Tamil Nadu began in February '86, and by God's grace in '89 we were able to begin a school of preaching (SOP) in Dindigul, known as the Dindigul Bible Institute. Over the next twenty years more than 850 graduated from the school. In the early 1990's a number of the graduates wanted to begin preacher training schools in their areas, thus the schools began to multiply.

In 1997 Don Iverson came to India and began to labor in Tamil Nadu also. And, to put it mildly, he hit the ground running in training men to be soul-winners and church planters. Today, after just over twenty years from 1989, to the glory of God, more than 1,400 Tamil brothers (see the figures below) have been trained to preach Jesus and Him crucified. Many of those trained are not only effective gospel preachers, but in many cases are as effective at training preachers as we are, if not more so.

As I have written before our aim is to train men as Paul did, that is to be tent-making preachers (See Acts 18:3; 20:34-35) for our desire for the churches of Christ in India is that they not be a glorified welfare program for the church in the U.S.; thus only a very few of these graduates receive support from the States, perhaps 5%. The vast majority of them work with their hands to support themselves and their families.

Yet, this does not mean that we send our graduates out and forget them, but once every year or two we support them in a regional or even a state-wide campaign. Such a state-wide campaign, we will hold for three days in April (22-24). The best way I can explain this project is to let you read the letter I wrote to these Tamil gospel preachers on February 10 from Shillong, N.E. India. The letter was individualized and translated into Tamil by Peter Wilson, whom you may recall is Mercy's husband.

"Dear brother in Christ,

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is my prayer that you and your family are well. I thank our God and Father for your true love for Him and for His Son and the church of Christ, which is His body. This letter is being mailed to you from Dindigul with a calendar. This New Year brings us closer to eternity than when we first believed; therefore let us press toward the mark of the high calling of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Let us work to teach relatives, friends and neighbors who do not know Christ and His church; even snatching them from the fire (Jude 22-23; Matt. 25:41).

Work diligently in teaching from "house to house" as Paul did (Acts 20:20) and follow him as he followed Christ (1 Cor. 11:1); follow his example in front of believers (Phil. 3:17; cf., Tim. 4:12) in faith, zeal and sacrifice (Acts 20:32-35). Seek to convert sinners, build up and plant churches. When brethren are qualified guide them into the eldership (Titus 1:5-12).

Concerning these things which pertain to our common salvation, I must write as our brother Jude wrote, saying it is good to be diligent to speak "concerning our common salvation," but as he also wrote, "it is necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3).

Just so, I write, you, beloved brother. It was 25 years ago this February that I, at the age of 50, came to Tamil Nadu to work and train faithful brothers like you to teach others, even as Paul by the Spirit gave order to us, "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" (2 Tim. 2:2). I urge you, dear brother, train the brothers in your congregation as you have been trained for we must love the brotherhood (1 Peter 2:15), and all must know how to contend for the faith.

As the apostle Paul warned, "there are many, of whom I have told you often and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly and whose glory is their shame - who set their minds on earthly things" (Phil 3:18-19).

Even so now we have some who have been trained in our preacher training schools, but are now running after David Edwin Harrell, Jr. and those with him. They are so calloused in heart that they take money to preach against the Bible Schools where they were trained. Not only so, but they take pay to forbid the churches of Christ to provide for orphaned children. They are hirelings, who preach because they are paid to fight the SOP and homes for homeless children. Beloved, this is not the pure and undefiled religion of Jesus Christ for we are to help the fatherless and widows; and as we have opportunity do good unto all (James 1:27; Gal. 1:2; 6:10-11); and we are ordered to "train faithful men who will teach others" (2 Tim. 2:2).

In order to show love to you and to encourage you and other of like precious faith throughout Tamil Nadu, I will, God willing, raise or borrow the funds to have a three day bicycle campaign April 22 - 24, which is Friday through Sunday. Our portion will be to provide you Rs 150\ - per day (\$3.40) or a total of Rs 450\ - (\$10.20) for the three days.

Requirements for participation will be 1) A brother must be a faithful and active member of a local church of Christ; he must live and practice the life of a Christian. 2) He must be one who seeks to bring sinners to Christ, to build up and/or plant churches of

Christ. 3) He must be a graduate of one of the Bible Institutes; or to have graduated from the two years in the Paul/Timothy program (2009 - 2011). (These are village evening schools).

4) Any brother who has joined with the so called non-institutional (anti-orphan home) crowd is not welcome to be a part of this campaign, because we have no fellowship with them. 5) Brothers in different areas should begin now to help one another in gospel meetings in villages and places with house-to-house teaching. Preachers in different areas should work together as brothers in arms for God's glory and a great harvest of souls. Be ready to endure afflictions and persecutions for the name of Jesus and His church. Fight the good fight of faith; lay hold on eternal life. The campaigns that brother Don organizes early in April will be encouragement to prepare more diligently for the April 22-24 work.

6) Work together over the next two months. The 3 days campaign April 22-24 should be a time of following up. Each of you knows the faithful workers for Christ in your area and you can work with them. If you know of godly brothers who did not get this letter or one of our calendars please send their name and address to Peter Wilson at Dindigul. 7) Tracts will be ready by the 15th of March; check with the brothers in your area who have distributed the tracts in the times past. Or check with Peter Wilson. 8) Brothers must provide their own cycles (bicycles).

In Christian love, Jim E. Waldron"

FOLLOWING THROUGH ON OUR PART FROM THE U.S.

Peter Wilson a fine gospel preacher, who is our computer specialist at Dindigul, translated the above letter and with the help of sister Regina, who is the school secretary, sent these letters to 1,348 preaching brothers around the state whose names and addresses we had listed. The final total, however, ended up being 1,462 for some brothers we learned have stopped serving the Lord (136), yet 250 were added of whom we had no record. This means, at \$10.00 (I left off the 20 cents to get a round figure) per brother we can support these 1,462 for three days as they campaign for Christ and His church