

considered to be an unspoken part of the child servants' contract.” (google.com; CRIDOC or Child Rights Information and Documentation Centre.com).

THE NEED FOR ACTION BY THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST

Various reports on the internet and newspapers (See: google.com/India/orphans; CIA.gov.India; www. Mattinapel.com) put the number of orphaned and exploited children among India’s 1.2 billion in the tens of millions. The state governments of the country are trying to stem this tide and where possible to rescue such children, but often parents who have sold them do not want them back, thus it is difficult to find care givers.

Our Master said, “And whosoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward” (Matt. 10:42). Again He said, “the poor have the gospel preached to them” (Matt. 11:5).

These things I write at this time not to emphasize the need for gifts for the widows and fatherless, but the urgent need for more workers on the field. I mean not only sound gospel preachers, but sisters, perhaps widows or others who can teach women and train house mothers and do other things that men are rarely qualified to do.

In our team there are four that work full time (Don Iverson, Garry Jones, Scott Richards and me). There are about a half dozen other brothers who come on a short term basis to teach in the school here in Shillong. Age is a factor; the first three named above are over 55; God willing I will be 75 in November. We thank God that there are dozens of native gospel preachers that are serving in schools of preaching in six states with more than 700 enrolled. There are also six native sisters that teach in the Bible school for women in Tamil Nadu.

In the matter of benevolence, aside from the aid to widows and fatherless, the thirty-two children in the Mustard Seed Village, Don has opened two homes for orphans in the deep south with 131 enrolled.

Yet, in the face of the need and the population what we are doing hardly equals a “drop in the bucket.” Where are fellow laborers, younger men for the field’s white unto harvest? Just now we can get permission to come to this country; but the question comes to us as a body of people that sings, “Send The Light” and “Here Am I, Send Me,” shall we wait until India closes its doors and refuses to let us enter. Where are the evangelists that will come and the wives that will work side by side with her man to rescue the perishing? Where are the elderships that will sponsor a missionary for Jesus?

In Christian love,
Jim E. Waldron

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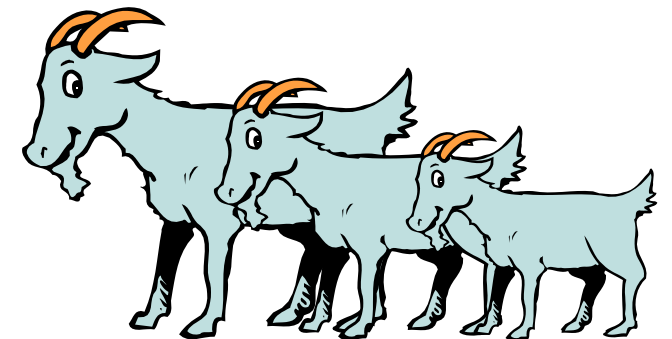
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EXTENDING THE HANDS OF JESUS

Isaiah prophesied of the age of Christ, saying, “a little child shall lead them” (Isa. 11:6) The program that we have in place to help widows and father-less children is producing for the mind’s eye some very beautiful pictures, not only toward those being helped, but by way of stirring up the spirit of Christ among adults and children. Read the following note from, Virginia Rothery, at Crossville,

“Wanted to let you know about one of the checks, which came in with a letter to you from the church of Christ at Habersham County, Cornelia GA. Their 1st and 2nd grade classes had a goal to buy a goat for a widow. Using only self-earned money or savings or part of their allowance they reached that goal in less than a month. Some did chores, others picked blueberries and sold them. The two grades consisted of 3 students with 2-3 occasional visitors. They turned the cash into the elders and sent it to you - total of \$40.00. The church meets at Mt. Airy, GA. Martin Davis is their preacher.”





This picture shows the children of the Liberty Church of Christ in West Tennessee as they made their gifts to God before the church and sent to us via the hands of the elders. This is the second time these

children have collected money to buy goats and sheep for the widows. They are truly children of Liberty as they work to liberate others from the power of Satan.

The remainder of this report will be to illustrate the enormous need to reach out to such children and young people in the third world nation of India.

A FIRST HAND EXAMPLE OF WIDE SPREAD ABUSE

Shillong, N. E. India, September 5, 2010. Garry Jones, who is sponsored by the church in Clinton, TN, and Scott Richards, sponsored by the church in Griffin, GA are here this month teaching classes in the Northeast Bible Institute. Garry arrived back in India on August 25 after being in the States for eight weeks. His first stop was in Dibrugar, Assam, which lies about 275 miles north of Shillong. His purpose was to visit the school of preaching (SOP) which was begun three years ago. It is under the direction of a graduate from the school here in Shillong; his name is Tifusa Yobin.

Besides starting up the SOP, Garry was able to get a home for orphans started near a small town (Lokla), which is also in Assam. The home is known as the Mustard Seed Village and at present thirty-two children are being cared for by house mothers, who are Christians.

Prior to brother Jones' return to India he had received word from Tifusa that an older lady, who is not a Christian, had learned of Mustard Seed Village and had come to him saying she wanted to send her two granddaughters, six and nine years old, to the home. The younger's name is Jyoti; the other's name is Ostomi. Both parents are dead and the grandmother is unable to care for them. Neither of the girls have had any schooling.

On 26th Tifusa and Garry went to the lady's house, but when she saw them she ran and hid herself. The reason? They were told it was due to the fact that she had sold Ostomi to a school teacher as a domestic servant for 300 rupees (\$6.59)!!

When this became known the police were notified and they told the teacher that he had to return the little girl. He, according to his story, had sent the child to the home of a relative in a town some forty miles north of Dibrugar. The police gave him one week to return the girl, but as of today (September 6, 2010) she has not been returned. It is highly likely that the school teacher sold her for a big profit to a dealer that traffics in children and the latter sold her into one of the larger cities of the country to be a domestic servant (read slave) or a prostitute (see the article below).

This is Jyoti. She is six years old. She has no parents and a grandmother who is lacking in moral responsibility, since she sold her nine year old sister for \$6.59. Please pray that God will make a way for brother Garry to persuade her grandmother to give custody to Mustard Seed Village to save her from the same fate that her sister has suffered.



CHILD LABOR

By George Kayange

(Child Rights Information & Documentation Centre.com)

“Child domestic laborers are children in domestic service, who are in an exploitative situation. Most of these are girls... “Domestic labor poses a threat to all young children under any conditions... “Cooking, boiling water, handling cleaning chemicals, using sharp kitchen utensils, caring for young children and lifting heavy items are all common tasks for most child servants. Child servants are made to work long days without sufficient sleep and they are hungry and mentally exhausted from the daily verbal intimidation. As a result, these children are easily tired and complain of fatigue, headaches and dizziness.

“If a child makes a mistake, breaks a glass, or works too slowly they run a severe risk of being beaten by their employer. Employers and their family members often physically abuse child servants. In these cases, children are rarely provided with any appropriate medical care for their injuries afterwards, nor are they allowed any time to recover or heal from the experience... “Child servants can potentially, and have lived in such uninterrupted cycles of violence for years on end.

“Young domestic workers are frequently sexually abused by their employers. This type of abuse can cause considerable damage to the health of these young children. Sexual abuse exposes these children to numerous dangerous sexually transmitted diseases such as syphilis, genital herpes and HIV/AIDS. If the child is very young, it is possible that forced sexual activity may cause internal infections and/or irreparable damage to her reproductive system. If she has reached puberty then she is also at risk of becoming pregnant. If this happens the employer may force her to have an abortion... or she may be forced into prostitution.

“Isolation from both the outside world and from the family within the home, combined with the servant's lack of funds and near complete dependence on their employer, leaves the child vulnerable to physical and sexual abuse.

“There are frequent reports of physical abuse towards child servants. Studies also show that both male and female domestic child workers are subject to frequent sexual abuse. As the children are not related to the employer's family, are hidden from the public eye, and have few options for legal recourse, sexual abuse is easily committed. In many cases, sex with the employer or his sons is even