

WALDRON NEWSLETTER

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TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

On Tuesday morning November 14th at 5: 55 a. m. K. M. Peter and I took an auto rickshaw the one mile from our hotel room to Cape Comorin, the most southern point of India. As we stood waiting for the sunrise we looked south toward the Indian Ocean. To our left we could see the Bay of Bengal (the Gulf of Manner portion) which lies on the east of India. To our right we could see the Arabian Sea, which stretches up the west coast of India and over to the Arabian peninsula. Looking at that great expanse of water and at the most southern tip of the Indian subcontinent I could not help thinking, "to the ends of the earth." That thought comes from Psalm 19:4, which was quoted by Paul: "Their sound has gone out to all the earth, and their word to the ends of the world" (Rom. 10:18). That was just after he had written, "How shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? (Rom. 10: 14). India has more than one billion souls who must hear.

It was a stirring sight to see that portion of land's end, to see that mighty body of water and to watch the sun rise over it. But what is even more thrilling is for me to tell you, God willing, we will begin our tenth school of preaching in Tamil Nadu in the town that sits at the lower tip of India, Kanniyakumari, in January. The reason Peter and I were in the town was because we had gone for a local preachers meetings.

Although the churches of Christ are not nearly so numerous in the deep south of Tamil Nadu as they are in the middle and northern part of the state, brother K. Gunasekaran, the local preacher, had gathered twelve preachers to meet us at 11:00 that day. We had a good meeting which lasted two hours. With Peter interpreting into Tamil I spoke on the urgency of maintaining the pattern of sound words with a special lesson on caring for the flock and practicing church discipline. Besides the lectures Peter and I were able to talk with Gunasekaran about the school of preaching. The latter had written to Peter and me about the possibility of such a training program in the south.

The preachers meeting in Kanniyakumari was the eighth such meeting I had been a part of in nine days (November 6 – 14). Peter had been with me for three of them and J. Sagayaraj the other five. In those nine days we traveled more than 700 miles by bus, train, auto rickshaw and car. From the town of Arakkonam on the northern border of Tamil Nadu which joins the state of Andra Pradesh to the Cape it is about 400 miles. With the help those two brothers, I visited six other places where we already have schools of preaching. The lectures were all on the same subject – holding to the pattern – with a special lesson on building the flock and practicing church discipline. On the 18th we held our ninth preachers' meeting. In all these meetings there was a total of 253 preachers. Some of whom preached for two or three congregations each Lord's day. In all they preached for about 390 churches. A careful estimate of the average attendance of *members* each Sunday was twenty. This means these brothers preach for around 7,500 each week. These 253 preachers are an estimated one third of the preachers in the state, but it is difficult to have accurate records.

Besides working with the schools in Tamil Nadu, Laura told you last month of our trip into the mountain country of Nepal where I taught Old Testament Survey part II (Joshua – II Chronicles) to the thirty-one brothers in that school. Besides this work we also send about \$1000 a month to help with the work in the Kiev Bible Training School, which is directed by brother Chuck Northrop. There are 15 men enrolled. The Duluth, Georgia church is the sponsor.

New Gospel Paper

With sixty million people in Tamil Nadu and twenty-three million in Nepal it often seems overwhelming even to think of ways to reach the masses. One new way we are going to try in the New Year is by producing a gospel quarterly in English that will be translated and published in many other languages. Already we have plans to put it into Nepali, Tamil and one of the dialects in eastern India. The young brothers in Nepal are very enthusiastic about this project and have been pushing me to get the English master completed, which I did and sent to Nepal this past Monday (November 27) by George Laux, an elder from Camden, TN who went to Nepal to teach for us.

The Annual Campaign In Tamil Nadu

The eVANGelism program is scheduled between January 26 and February 9 this coming year. Ten years ago we began this work with two vans. Last February we sent out ten, but they were unable to go to all the places our brethren wanted and often could stay only a short time in some of the places. Thus this year we are sending out fifteen vans for fifteen days. Each van will carry twelve evangelists or a total of 180. The cost looks like this:

1) Rent of one van per day	Rps 800\	or \$ 17.40
2) Diesel and oil	Rps 535\	or 11.63
3) Daily support for 12 preachers	Rps 1, 500\	or <u>32.60</u>
Total		\$61.63

If we round that figure to \$62 per day per van it means the daily total will be \$930 or \$13,950 for the fifteen days of eVANGelism. Randall Standefer must send \$14,000 to brother Peter Pillai for this project before the 31st of December. Please help as you can.

We are also printing 160,000 tracts for the brothers to distribute. That total comes to \$1,217. We have just ordered 3,500 Bibles and we will order another 3,500 in March or April. Each of these costs \$1.41 so we will need \$4,900 to cover that bill. We must print 5,000 new song books in the New Year. Each of those will cost \$1.50 or \$7,500 for the total. We buy on average about 50 bicycles a year for the preachers who have graduated and each of those costs around \$47.50.

A special project: As most of you know, we do not build church buildings except where we have schools of preaching. This is because we would be snowed under building church houses if we began such. The training of preachers is our number one project. However, the Airport church in Thrichy is made up of 25 blind Christians (I wrote about them two years ago) and a few Christians who can see. They came to me two weeks ago and asked me to build them a building as they are just meeting in a rented hovel and they are being put out of it. I did not tell them that I would or could, but I think we should. So I want to raise about \$17,500 for this unique need. Please help in these projects as you are able and as God grants you the ability.

I came home on November 21st and must return on the 18th of December as there is much to do. Please pray for me.

In Christian love,

Jim E. Waldron



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