

WALDRON NEWSLETTER

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REPEAT OF THE BOOK OF ACTS (Saints Persecuted)

Acts 14:5-7: "And when a violent attempt was made by both the Gentiles and Jews, with their rulers, to abuse and stone them, they became aware of it and fled to Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and to the surrounding region. And they were preaching the gospel there."

As I reported in the December Newsletter from January 27th until February 9th we had 190 gospel preachers in fifteen vans going all over the northern and central portions of Tamil Nadu in a campaign for Christ. Nearly a quarter million tracts were distributed, 453 gospel meeting services held, 17,576 names collected for Bible correspondence courses and there were 685 baptisms. With these wonderful works came persecution.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD: The brothers in one van had just completed their preaching and tract distribution when a group of fanatics surrounded the van in one of the suburbs of Coimbatore and told the brothers to leave. Brother K.A.K. who was in charge reported that the mob was carrying sticks and knives. The brethren left there and went to another place to preach and distribute tracts.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH: In the city of Palani there is an idol's temple to which thousands of devotees gather during January and February each year. The brothers in one van on the above date were in that area preaching, teaching and distributing tracts. The van was stopped by a mob which threatened to burn the van. Our brethren left and went about twenty miles away to another city and continued their work.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH: Dharapuram – A group from a religious political faction in this city took one of our tracts, "One God and One Race (People)" to the police station and made a heated complaint against our brothers. The police then stopped the van and demanded that all the brothers come into the police station. They asked brother I.G.S. why this tract was being distributed and who was this man (they named one brother from Dindigul) who had written it. After warning the brethren the police let them go saying they would check up on the brother who

had dared to write such a tract.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH: Chinai Dharapuram – The van working this area was headed up by one of our teachers from the Bible Institute at Dindigul. It was surrounded by a group of so-called "high caste" people and the demand was made that the Christians quit preaching in the street where the "high caste" lived. The brethren were told to go preach to the "low caste" people. These fanatics said if you don't we will burn your van. Our brothers went to another place and continued their work. The following letter gives a very interesting report about a brother (S. M.) who was converted from idols less than two years ago.

E-MAIL TO WALDRON FROM J. SAGAYARAJ

**"IF I SLAP YOU
ON YOUR
RIGHT CHEEK,
WILL YOU TURN
YOUR OTHER
CHEEK?"**

Dear Brother in Christ: Greetings in the name of our loving Savior Jesus Christ! I received your three e-mails just now and noted the contents. Thank you very much. Just now we returned from van work at Mountainside church area. Today we had some bad experience in our van work. Our tailor master, Brother S. M., accompanied us on behalf of Southside church to help in issuing tracts in villages near Mountainside. All our brothers were issuing tracts in a village called Chinnalapatti. Now I put his own words here to explain the situation:

"From this morning, I went along with the brothers to participate in the van work on behalf of Southside church of Christ. First we went to the villages called Panjam-patti, and Alamarathupatti. We distributed tracts in these two villages without any disturbances. Then we went to Chinnalapatti and had lunch there. After lunch we started to distribute tracts. We divided two by two and went in two different lanes of the village. Myself and N. S. finished the distribution of tracts and approaching our van. At that time, two men were threatening our driver. We went there and I asked those men why are you threatening? For this question, one of those men asked me, "If I slap you on your right cheek, will you turn your other cheek?" And he slapped me. For that, I kept my patience and told him politely that why should he beat me. For that he showed me a knife from his hip and threatened me (that I should) run away immediately. In the meantime three other men came and joined with them. Then he entered into the van and grabbed all the tracts remaining

in the van (about 800), a Bible and a hymn book. Then he came out of the van and threatened us to go with them to the Police Station. I replied that we will go out from there and we all got into the van and came out of that village.

After this incident, we went to Mountainside church area and distributed tracts there, conducted a good meeting and came back to Dindigul.

Brother, please pray for us ...”

In Christian love, J. Sagayaraj

ZIMIK & THE AMERICAN PREACHER

Wang Kui Zimik is a thirty-year-old single brother from the hill tribes region of East India. He is presently employed in



a private school in Nepal to teach English. In January he took time off from his schoolwork to meet Ernest Burnette and me in Calcutta for a lectureship on fundamentals of the faith. Brother Zimik had asked us to have such a meeting in order to promote the work of Christ among his people. His native place is more than 500 miles from Calcutta and he was able to get only four men from his district to come with him. Yet, with him translating Ernest and I put 16 lectures on tape to be taken back to his hometown. The following is a letter, which he sent after returning to Nepal.

Narayangarh, Nepal January 31, 2001

Mr. Jim E. Waldron Mr. Ernest Burnette

Dear brother Jim and Ernest,

Greetings in the name of Christ, our Savior. Thank you for the lectures in Calcutta. It has already made ripples.

While at home a Baptist preacher from California came to my village with another preacher from Manipur. They were teaching: 1. Once Saved, Always saved (2). Salvation by faith and repentance only (3). Baptism is not a requirement for the remission of sins (4) and they said that (whenever) those, who heard their sermon, stood up and came to the front for prayer before the deacons, were BORN AGAIN that moment. (These are the main false teachings prevailing in my society too).

The theme of their lectures was about GOING TO HEAVEN. So I typed out a proposition for debate and distributed to the speakers, "pastor" and teachers. Later,

the Baptist church peon came to call on me. They were not ready for any public debate, but just discuss in private. I wanted to take recording of the discussions but they refused.

The main speaker of the "crusade", David L. Scamell told me that I have to read the Bible in Greek to get in-depth understanding of the scriptures. I told him that though I'm not a Greek scholar, I read the Bible well in three languages. And the Bible in these languages says Baptism is for the remission of sins. And if it is not, then all the Bibles in these languages have to be re-written. He said if I wanted a scholarly debate, it would be on his next trip, which will be after about two years.

Yours in Christ, Zimik

NEED TO REPLACE THATCHED ROOF

The first report above reminds me that eighteen months ago the authorities asked us to replace the thatched roofs on our buildings in various places with permanent ones. This we have done or are in the process of doing in several places. However, we must replace the roof on the building for the Bible Institute for the blind at Pudukottai. It is a big building. The roof will have to be poured concrete. It and the walls that will have to be built up or replaced will cost us about \$7,500. Please help as you can. Already we are in the process of buying a building for the church made up mainly of the blind near the airport in the city of Thrichy., which is about 25 miles from Pudukottai.

UP-COMING DEBATE

The week of February 19-23 I will be in a debate on the question of how the Holy Spirit dwells and works in Christians. Is it direct or by means of the word? It will take place in West Virginia. For more information you may phone Dan Kessenger of the Dewey Avenue church in ST. Mary's, WV. 304-684-3939. Tapes will be available.

We thank God for your fellowship in training native Christians to reach their own. Please pray for us.

In Christian love,

Jim E. Waldron

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