

WALDRON NEWSLETTER

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ZIMIK WUNGKUI

In the early and mid-part of the last century a number of churches of Christ were established in the northeastern portion of India. This region of India is very hilly and in some places quite mountainous, because it is covered with the foothills of the Himalayas. The people in general are very different ethnically from the average Indian. They are known as "tribals" and often look more like Chinese or Tibetans. Brothers from Canada and other places started many small congregations in this hill country over the last one hundred years, but they are dying out. This is due to the fact that in recent years there have been no brothers trained as preachers, elders or evangelists. Brother Wung Kui Zimik is from that area. He is the young man I wrote about in February that called the hand of the Baptist preacher from California who was teaching that baptism is not for the forgiveness of sins. As I noted earlier when I first met brother Zimik he was teaching English in a private school in Nepal, but in February he resigned and returned to his native state where he is preaching the unpervverted gospel, rebuilding churches and rescuing sinners for the name of Christ. I thought you might enjoy his most recent letters.

Dear brother Jim,

Manipur, Imphal May 16, 2001

Greetings from Imphal. I came down from the hills yesterday where there is no internet. It takes time for me to reply. Also Rudra's news is shocking and sad!¹ The first day I met brother Rudra in Calcutta in 1997 December, he showed me Anita's photograph. He'd been paying school fees and buying shoes for her all these years. I sincerely pray God will provide a good wife for him. Here in Ukhrul, Manipur since March I've (had) encounters with pastors, (and) ex-pastors of the Baptist. Also a leader of a Seventh Day Adventist comes regularly to me to listen to the tapes recorded in Calcutta. There have been many demands (for the tapes). I'm asking them to bring blank cassettes and I'll record for them in studio.

If possible let us arrange ten copies each of the nine Master cassettes. One costs about Rs 40. THE GOSPEL FLAME² is doing well. I'm taking them wherever I go. Next issue, let us increase the number of copies to 1500. In the last issue, there was little room left to be filled. So I included a brief note on Galatians 3:28. I met two "Reverend Doctors" of the Baptist church. One wrote a book on Baptist Faith, where he mentioned we can use red tea in the Lord's Supper if there is no grape juice. We discussed on this issue, and he said though he agreed with my reasoning, The Asian Baptist Council has agreed to use rice (in Indonesia) in lieu of unleavened bread. Another "Reverend Doctor" (both are doctorates from America) whom I met today say once we are saved we cannot fall. This they are preaching emphatically everywhere. So we need a good tract in my language on Once Saved Always Saved doctrine. My elder brother has warned me not to spread my 'new' faith in his locality. We already baptized three in the area.

I translated a piece on the differences between the Church of Christ and the Christian Church as these have been divided into two last April because of mixing these teachings. This happened just before your scheduled arrival in Manipur. The main issue is instrumental music. Two new congregations has started. They were old members scattered who were not worshipping. Leaders of the churches who are willing to follow the original pattern are looking forward to meeting you in June at Calcutta. Please let me know of any possibility.

Yours in Christ, Zimik Wungkui

¹ Wung Kui Zimik refers to a **sad event** that happened to our brother Rudra Giri. This brother is the manager of the office with the Himalaya Bible Institute in Nayrangarh, Nepal. He also does interpreting for the American teachers and is himself a student in the school. He had been engaged to a Christian girl in Kathmandu for four years. Due to the poverty of her family he had paid the tuition fees for her to complete her education in English. He had hoped she would be an ideal preachers wife who would be able to interpret for ladies classes when American sister came over. The marriage was to be held after worship on April 29th. Ernest and Carolyn Burnette stayed over a few days in order to attend the wedding. Alas, on the 28th the girl's parents had to tell Rudra that she had eloped with a Hindu man. As you can well imagine he was devastated. The parents were also as they truly love Rudra. When I heard of it I sent him my sympathies, but I also told him of the song by Conway Twitty: "Thank God and Greyhound she's gone." It would have been a lot worst if she had married him and then ran off.

² **THE GOSPEL FLAME** is a quarterly gospel paper that we publish in Nepal, East India and in Tamil Nadu. It is aimed at reaching souls for Christ.

Dear brother Jim,

May 16, 2001

Earlier I reported the baptism of a 73 yr old man. There has been more baptisms in Ukhrul hill district. Sochuingam (19) male was baptized on April 28. Somi Kasom, a 68 yr old retired government school teacher who 'became' a member of the

church of Christ in 1990, but was baptized in a Baptist church, was immersed for the remission of sin on May 2, 2001.

Anjan and Aphung, husband and wife were baptized by brother Pamshang on May 6, 2001. He's been preaching undenominational Christianity since 1970. Lately, he's been more active.

On May 14, after Sunday worship, Chanshimla (17) female, Ramreichan (19) male and Ngathingmi (21) male were baptized. They are from one family whose parents are members of the church. So far, six members of the church of Christ have applied to study in the Bible institute.³ Out of these, two are recently baptized. Their parents are members of the church. A few more applicants are expected soon. Their bio-datas will be sent in the next mail. I received a cheque of Rs 5000 from brother Peter A. Pillai. Thank you.

Yours in Christ, Zimik Wungkui

³ Zimik here refers to our desire to begin an evening school in the great city of Calcutta later this year. It will be a night school due to the fact that many in that city study and work during the day and cannot attend a day time school of preaching.

GRADUATION IN INDIA

On April 27, there were 21 young men who graduated from the two year Bible Institute near Coimbatore. Twenty-five young women received their diploma in Bible from the women's division of the same institute at the same time. Don Iverson spoke for the graduation. He also spoke for the graduation at Dindigul on May 5th. Thirty-eight received their Bible diploma for three year's study. Don and Cathy Iverson spent six weeks in Tamil Nadu and taught almost constantly during that time. They gave one day lectures in seven locations and traveled nearly 1000 miles with Cathy teaching the sisters and Don teaching the brothers. Women and children totaled around 1060 and the number of brothers was 895. They also spent two weeks at Coimbatore teaching in the schools for single men and women. They are wonderful fellow laborers in the kingdom.

Speaking of fellow laborers Ernest and Carolyn Burnette spent the month of April in Nepal where he taught the first year students the Pentateuch. Stan Stevenson, who is the regular preacher for the church at Rome east of Cookeville, TN is teaching there for the month of May. Billy Simmons of Winder, GA is scheduled to teach in June and July.

The schools in Tamil Nadu are out for the month of May. The classes for 2001 – 2002 begin the first week of June. More than 380 are expected in the ten schools of preaching. There will be 98 in the women's Bible Institute and 42 in the Bible Institute for the blind. Not counting construction and maintenance costs the support per student is \$35 per month. This means that \$105 each month will support three men as they train to preach the gospel of Jesus to their own people. I will give a break down on the attendance for all the schools in June. We have received about \$5,600 toward the Rupees 470,000 (\$10,270) we need to replace the thatched roof on the school for the blind. One widowed sister from East Tennessee sent \$5,000. Please pray for us. In Christian love, Jim E, Waldron

REFLECTIONS FROM CATHY (IVERSON)

...My first two weeks were spent in Dindigul. Don was teaching at the advanced school. I attended the classes with the men. It is so exciting to see their reaction to Don's teaching. In their smiles, you can see the love and appreciation they have for him. On the property of the school they are building an apartment where we can stay when we are here. It will make it so much easier. We spend at least two hours each day riding buses, walking, etc. just to get to the school and back to the lodge. We will be able to spend that time teaching next year (Lord willing) when we are here. We have purchased an electric skillet and a small baking oven to be used in the apartment. I was able to use these at the hotel to cook for Don and Jim. Some mornings we were able to have eggs, Spam, and homemade biscuits. Even the simplest chores are so difficult. Each day, after returning from the school, we would go down the street and buy vegetables (potatoes, onions, cucumbers, and okra). I would have to fill a bucket with water from the bathroom to wash the vegetables and dishes. I had to fill one bucket with water and add bleaching powder to disinfect the vegetables and dishes. It was back-breaking to bend over the bucket to wash dishes. I was felling sorry for myself until I heard about Samson's wife. She has been standing in line at the community water faucet to get water to last for a week (water is being rationed because of a lack of rain). The water finally came at midnight. Pray!
Cathy

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