

WALDRON NEWSLETTER

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SUPPORTING BIBLE TRAINING SCHOOLS

In the Newsletter last month I reported about fourteen Bible training schools with which Dunlap is associated overseas in Ukraine, Nepal and Tamil Nadu, India. Most of these schools are conducted by the church at Dunlap with the help of other congregations and individuals. But five of the twelve schools in Tamil Nadu are fully supported by two congregations in the U.S. The preacher training school at Dharapuram, which has 26 men enrolled for 2001, is supported by the North Main Church in Malvern, AR. The elders there are Earl Clevenger and Glen Darrow. They hope later this year to send their preacher Tom Moore over to look at their work first hand and teach at Dindigul.

The church at Banner Elk, NC, which is overseen by Bob Williams and Don Iverson, has taken on the responsibility of the preacher training schools at Kanniyakumari, Polarai, Paramathy and Arakkonam. If any other congregation has an interest in fully supporting one of the schools let us know. We are overjoyed at Dunlap with the co-operation of so many in this work, but some might want to have one school as their own responsibility. By comparing last month's Newsletter to this one you can ascertain which school are supported through our general fund. To determine cost per month just multiply the number enrolled by \$35.

Speaking of Don Iverson, he and his wife Cathy spent six weeks in Tamil Nadu this spring teaching around the state. Earlier this spring we carried one report from Cathy while they were still there. Here is the latest after they returned to their home in Banner Elk. It is my hope that this will inspire other husband and wife teams to work with us in Asia. But read on, her story might have the opposite effect.

OUR RECENT TRIP TO INDIA

Cathy Iverson

When speaking to ladies classes I often begin by explaining that working in India is one of the most wonderful and most difficult experiences of my life. Most of the modern conveniences I have in America are absent in India, but any inconveniences are far outweighed by the smile of loving sisters who love our Lord and work hard to serve him on a daily basis. The Indian people are so appreciative and hospitable.

This was my second time to travel with Don to Tamil Nadu. Adjusting to my new surroundings was much easier. Landing in Coimbatore, we immediately went to Angie Greene, the school for single women. It was exciting to see the faces of many girls that I had in classes the year before. Entering the gates at the school I was immediately surrounded by a sea of loving smiles. I am so thankful to God for his church, and the bond I share with these girls is beyond description. Don preached for the girls on Saturday night. On Sunday morning he preached for the boys and then we traveled to Dindigul.

While in Dindigul, most of my duties were of a domestic nature. Don taught the book of Luke to half of the men while Jim taught Revelation to the rest. We purchased an electric skillet and a toaster oven in a shop near the hotel. Every morning I would prepare breakfast and Jim would come knocking on our door at 6:00 A.M. We enjoyed Spam (brought in our luggage from the States), eggs, and homemade biscuits. I have a new appreciation for my American dishwasher as I would have to fill buckets with water, add bleach powder, and stoop to wash dishes. We had so many things plugged into the electrical outlets that we blew the fuses one day, putting the hotel out of power. I wish I could have heard some of the conversations between hotel staff regarding the Americans.

Leaving Dindigul we traveled to Dharapuram. Don taught the men at Polarai, which is twelve miles west, while I taught around 150 ladies at Dharapuram. One night we traveled to a village where Don preached. Heavy rains caused major flooding and we were delayed for several hours from getting back to our hotel. Four souls were baptized into Christ after the morning service on Sunday.

Dharapuram was my first experience with my new translator, Beulah. She did a wonderful job. Her father is a gospel preacher near Chennai, Tamil Nadu's largest city. She had received my outlines in advance and had practiced and studied to

get the lessons fixed in her mind. She has a great love for the Lord and before the trip was over she felt like a daughter.

After teaching in Erode, we traveled by train to Arokkonam. We sped through the night at about 65 MPH (it felt like 100). We were to get off the train about 3:30 A.M., but we were not sure when to disembark. We were nervous about recognizing our stop. Thankfully Brother G. Stephenson met us at the terminal. Arokkonam is always one of the more difficult places to stay. When we pulled up in front of the hotel I was surprised to see that we would have to step across people sleeping on the street and in the stairway leading up to our room. The room was very dirty. The walls were soiled badly. The bathroom was in disrepair. Though thankful for the English style toilet, the seat was broken off and laying in the corner. It was covered with spiders and webs. The paint on the walls of the room was peeling off in rather large pieces. However, there was a beautiful mural on one wall, and detailed trim and woodwork on the ceiling.

Don preached on that Sunday after our arrival. One young lady was baptized in a pond near the church building. The water buffaloes had to be chased out of the pond. We visited a home where a twenty-two year old young man was laying on a cot. He had fallen from a coconut tree and is now paralyzed from his chest down. I could not contain my tears as I hugged his mother. This family lives in a hut, approximately 100 square feet. What is his hope of recovery in this country? I was thankful for our American hospitals.

We traveled a lot. From Arokkonam we went by train (14 hours) to Kaniyakamari. Kaniyakamari is located on the very southern tip of India. I taught many ladies there. We then traveled by bus through the night to reach Madurai. While teaching the ladies at Madurai I got sick toward the end of my teaching session and had to return to the hotel.

My final week was spent in Coimbatore teaching the girls. Graduates from previous years returned for a refresher course. It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm and the diligence with which they serve. One girl, a graduate, received an award for having memorized 690 memory verses over the period of a year. One of my least pleasant experiences was also at Coimbatore as I was terrified on several occasions by a rat. He gnawed and tried to get into our room at night. One evening I entered the kitchen to remove my bath water from the stove and he was climbing straight up the wall. There he was. I was face to face with the foe and he was the size of a small dog. I was proud of myself. I did not scream. I got Don out of a meeting and had him to come and remove the water from the burner. Explaining the situation to Lily later, she told me how many of the girls are skilled at killing rats. We cannot begin to comprehend the cultural differences.

I hope I have not sounded negative. This is the finest work I have ever seen. It was almost seven weeks from the time we left the States until we returned. Six of those weeks were in India. In all of my life, I doubt there has ever been another six weeks that have been more exhilarating. I was thankful to see my dishwasher, washing machine, and automobile when I returned. At the same time, I felt very empty and lonesome after spending every hour of every day immersing myself in the studying and teaching of God's word. I was privileged to influence hundreds of women to be more steadfast in their service to God. It is all about saving souls, and my prayer is that many more souls will be in heaven as a result of God using us on this recent trip. How can a dishwasher compare to that spiritual satisfaction?

WUNGKUI ZIMIK

(wong goi zimik)

Last month I reported about an e-mail letter received from brother Zimik (June 12) in eastern India, which told of his upcoming debate with a Seventh Day Adventist man on Saturday June 16th. However, we learned on British Broadcasting (BBC) that on that date rioting broke out against the government in Imphal the very city where the debate was to take place. As of this writing (June 29) no word has been received from him. Perhaps he decided to return to the hill country until the confusion is over. Nevertheless I have spelled his name phonetically above in order that you might pray for him by name. When you read this I will be in India where I will be until August 2nd, before going to Nepal to teach a month. Please keep us (my family and me) and this work in your prayers.

In Christian love,
Jim E. Waldron

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