

# WALDRON NEWSLETTER

Vol. 34

August 2001

No. 4

## ZIMIK

On the 15th of August India celebrated the 54th year of its independence from Great Britain. At the time of independence (1947) British India was carved into two countries – Pakistan and India. Actually Pakistan was at that time two states, which were designated as East and West Pakistan. In 1971 East Pakistan went to war with the Western wing and declared itself independent. It is now known as Bangladesh. The odd thing about the carving of what is now Bangladesh out of India is that three states of the latter country are wrapped around Bangladesh. The three states are Assam, Nagaland and Manipur. These last two join hard to Burma and are very mountainous.

Perhaps due to their remoteness or a feeling of neglect from the central government at New Delhi all three have a problem of insurrection. Our brother Wung Kui Zimik is from Nagaland and he says his native tribe's people are very militant and were formerly headhunters. It was Naga tribes people that precipitated the violence that disturbed brother Zimik's work in mid-June, although the riots actually broke out in the adjoining state – Manipur.

You may recall that Zimik had e-mailed me on the 12th of June of his pending debate for June 15th in Imphal, the capital of Manipur, with a well known (Adventist) politician on the question of the Sabbath. The very weekend the debate was scheduled riots broke out in Imphal, so I did not know what had become of our brother or if the debate had taken place. You will remember I asked you in the July Newsletter to pray for Zimik for I had received no word from him in a month.

You will rejoice to hear that on the 16th of July I did receive an e-mail from him. He reported that the debate did take place and that he and his opponent immediately scheduled another one on the kingdom. However, due to the riots, the central government ordered a curfew in Imphal. Thus, Zimik had to return to his native state to continue his preaching. Concerning the debate on the Sabbath, he said it went well. I had sent a note to him saying that the Adventist man would claim that the Catholics had changed the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday, but they did no such thing because it was not changed. It was abrogated (Eph. 2:15; Col. 2:14-16). Sure enough the politician made this claim and Zimik was ready for him.

## RETURN TO INDIA

On the 12th of July I flew from Nashville via Detroit to Amsterdam in the Netherlands, then on the morning of the 13th I flew from there to Mumbai (Bombay) on the west coast of India. We arrived about 12:45 on the morning of the 14th. I got through immigration, picked up my bag, took a van to a hotel where I thankfully got to bed about 2:00 a.m. The next morning at 9:30 I flew to Madurai (in south India) and from there took a car to Dindigul. I usually stay at the same little motel in Dindigul, where I got an AC room for Rs 350 or \$7.61.

On Sunday I preached for the Dindigul Central congregation that meets in the home of J. W. Samson, the director of the Dindigul Bible Institute (DBI). On Monday morning (July 16) at 4:30 Samson, another brother and I met at the bus station to go the 75 miles to Pudukottai where we have the Bible Institute for the blind and deaf. Our purpose in going was to ascertain the best way to replace the thatched roof of the main building of the school with one of cast concrete. The director of the school is K. Shunmugam. When we arrived at 9:30 he greeted us and his wife Elizabeth fed us breakfast. Afterwards we met with a local draftsman and arranged for him to draw the plans as to how the roof should be formed. The building is 70 ft. x 40 ft. Since there will have to be overhangs the project will not be a simple one. Brother Yesuraj, who was the brother with us, will oversee the work and will set the forms and the steel reinforcing bar for the pillars. He will also oversee and help set the form for the roof and lay the steel for it. He is a trained ironworker as well as a gospel preacher.

After these preliminaries Samson and I took a bus about 20 miles to the city of Trichy to inspect the building we purchased in the Spring for the congregation which has about 26 members, the vast majority of whom are blind. One of the things I had to do there was go with some of the local Christians to their registration office to verify that the local saints were to receive the deed on behalf of the church. This was accomplished quickly, so Samson and I got a bus back to Dindigul. The trip took two

hours. We arrived at 5:30 in the evening and I was asleep by 6:30.

On Tuesday I met with a brother to arrange for him to translate some tracts and to complete the translation of a commentary on the book of Mark. One can hardly imagine the lack of good study materials for Christians in the local language. I also met during the week with a printer who will print our much-needed songbooks. We want them cloth bound with a plastic jacket over that. I told him we needed 10,000. Later he gave us a quote of Rupees 37 (80 cents) per book. It has 352 pages. I also phoned brother P.R. Samy in Bangalore, which is in another state and is about 200 miles north west of Dindigul. I asked him to order 2500 Bibles from the local Bible Society. These will cost Rupees 65 (\$1.41) each. Speaking of Bangalore, during the week another brother came from there and asked if I could help him get a school of preaching started in that city. Samson and I had a long interview with him. He seems to have a good work going, so in September we will visit him to investigate the possibilities. During the week we also did many interviews, gave counsel to a number and heard some complaints of some against others. These things come up as we have about 145 students and a staff of more than twenty to serve them as office workers, teachers and cooks, besides the construction workers on the grounds.

## MERCY

The above word is actually the name of one of our very fine teachers in the Bible Institute for women at Coimbatore. Mercy is the youngest daughter of a Hindu family that has four daughters. When she came to the Bible Institute in 1992 she was a new Christian and only seventeen. She has been teaching for the school since she graduated in 1994 and those who have heard her teach say she is outstanding. She is now 24. Six weeks ago one of our Bible instructors at Dindigul went with J. W. Samson to the home of her parents to ask their permission for Mercy to marry his son. The son's name is Peter Wilson and he is a graduate of the Bible Institute for single men and works for the school at Dindigul. Her parents did what we would call in America — pitched a fit. They said no one else in all their family was a Christian. They regard themselves as so-called high cast and they are determined that she marry someone in their caste level and not a Christian. On the Friday while I was at Dindigul (July 20) the mother and one of Mercy's older sisters came to the women's school and by a ruse about her father being sick persuaded Mercy to come home. Mercy told Lily (the school's headmistress) that she would go home see her father, worship with the church in Dharapuram where she lives and come back on Sunday afternoon. But the parents did not let her return, but kept her in the house as a virtual prisoner.

On Saturday afternoon while passing through Dharapuram enroute to Coimbatore I decided to get the local preacher, I. G. Sathiyaraj, who also directs the local school of preaching, and his wife to go with me to the home of Mercy's parents. I hoped we might persuade them to let her return to her teaching duties. I also wanted to see how sick her father was. Although he was supposed to be very sick just the day before he was out in the town when we arrived at 7:15 and even though I kept sitting until a quarter to nine he did not show up. Mercy stood for the whole time weeping. Perhaps our visit did do some good for our little sister was allowed to attend worship the next day and they say she may continue to go to the local church. However, the family is adamant that she not go back to the school. They hope to block the possibility in every way of her marrying Peter Wilson or any Christian boy. Please pray for her and her young man.

You can calculate from what I wrote above about the songbooks that we need \$8,000 to have them printed. I told the printer I could not order the printing until I had put in a request for the funds. \$10.00 will buy 12 songbooks, and \$100.00 will buy 125 books. Also we must pay \$3,533 for the 2500 Bibles. Please help as you can. This request to you is as that of the apostle Paul to the Philippians, "it is not that I seek the gift, but that fruit might abound to your account" (Phil. 4:17). Besides these things we must print many more tracts. In fact, we will print a quarter million for the eVANGelism program in January. I know that most congregations make up their budget in October and November. Please ask your congregation to help us or raise their gift for 2002. May God bless each of you for your love of God's Son and His Kingdom.

In Christian love,

Jim E. Waldron

WALDRON MISSION FUND [jimewaldron@hotmail.com](mailto:jimewaldron@hotmail.com)  
DUNLAP CHURCH OF CHRIST, P.O. BOX 123, DUNLAP, TN 37327-0123