

TAKING THE SAVING GOSPEL TO A LOST WORLD

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"...GO INTO ALL THE
WORLD AND PREACH THE
GOSPEL TO EVERY
CREATURE..."

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SOUTH INDIA WORK

I have been working regularly in India since the year 2000. Often I go more than once a year and since 2010 a January trip has been a fixed part of our schedule. It is a great time to go as far as the weather is concerned. It is winter so only in the 80s and mostly dry. Many who usually are working long hours in the fields are not as busy during this period and are more free to attend teaching/preaching events. As usual, **Don Oelze** (Anacortes, Washington) will be my coworker in the main focus of our work— classes for training Indian preachers. **Bryant Perry**, a deacon in the Wylie, Texas church, plays an important role in these trips. It's wonderful that this year his wife and children (**Sonya, Bryanna** and **Dietrich**) will make the trip with him. Bryant's emphasis is Bible camps with large youth groups. The results are terrific. So many young people learn about God for the first time and the direction of many lives is changed. Bryant, Don and I will, as usual, have numerous preaching opportunities.

INDIA IS A RIPE FIELD

Here are some interesting things about India and the Lord's work there. These facts show the wisdom of doing as much as we can **now**—while the door is still open and the response is so amazing. First, consider that they have about 1.3 billion souls. This is more than all of North America, Central America, South America and the Caribbean Islands combined. All these people are in a country one third the size of ours.

I saw a recent report from a church that works extensively in India. A few preachers are involved in this work under the oversight of the elders of the Shiloh congregation in Hazel Green, Alabama. In my own words here is a summary of some pertinent facts in their newsletter. These were said to be factors which make the work so fruitful.

- The enormous population. India is expected to soon overtake China—which is three times its size—as the most populous country in the world.
- The poverty. India, as you know, is an extremely poor country. Our per capita income is over 30 times theirs. And about 35% of their people live in *extreme* poverty and have no hope of any way out of their dire situation. Jesus gives hope when nothing else can.
- The idea of returning to the New Testament and just being Christians is very appealing to large numbers of denominational church members. My experience has been that these people are not prejudiced against the truth. They just haven't heard it. When they do there is a strong attraction to the message.
- The Indian people are the most religious people on earth. The country is full of very spiritually-minded people. They want to know God.
- There is great disenchantment with their main religion, Hinduism. People can see the weakness and foolishness of this system of idolatry which has doctrines that have damaged nearly every aspect of Indian culture for centuries. Multiplied thousands are leaving Hinduism and looking for something better.

So please pray for our efforts in India. Pray for a good response to the message. Pray for a safe trip for us and for God's protection on all His people in this troubled world.

Your coworker,

Ronald Coleman