

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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I N D I A

Our January trip to India was very productive. As usual, **Don Oelze** (Anacortes, Washington) and **Bryant Perry** (Wylie, Texas) were my coworkers. In addition—on their first visit to India—**Rose**, and Don's wife, **Elnora**, accompanied us. Our work was centered in two large cities; **Hyderabad** and **Vijayawada**. Each year Don and I teach seminars for Indian preachers and Bryant conducts youth camps. Also, plenty of preaching opportunities are arranged for us men. Rose and Elnora were kept busy teaching ladies' classes. Nearly all of Bryant's work was in the Vijayawada area. He teaches many kids and handles it all in an amazing fashion. He had a three day youth camp in one location with 160 children. Then the next day in a new place with fifty and the following day in a different area with sixty. Rose, Don, Elnora and I worked our first week in Hyderabad. Don and I taught two courses to about 52 men, including a few denominational preachers. He taught the morning sessions on **Survey of the Old Testament Prophets**. My afternoon classes were on **The Restoration of the New Testament Church**. These topics had been requested. Typically on these trips some denominational preachers are converted and, consequently, some people in their congregations.

Tyler and **Michael Thompson** and daughter, **Rebecca**, arrived a week after we did. They are from Stevens Point, Wisconsin and the church there helps support orphan children in India. We worked with Tyler last January on his first trip to that country. They flew into Vijayawada and we traveled Sunday afternoon to that city. Bryant would soon start home but for that one night we were all in the same place. We made it a point to all be in the nearby village of **Jakkampudi** for a very special event.

The very special event was the official opening of the **ELNORA ORPHAN HOME**. The Christians there have been caring for orphan children for a long time. Many of you have had a part in helping this good work on a regular basis. It takes \$30 per month to provide for each child. (*This actually needs to be increased to \$35 now!*) Generous contributions by loving Christians have made possible the construction of a suitable building to house even more orphaned or abandoned kids and care for them in a better way. This home is now recognized and licensed by the government and the official opening and dedication of the building was on January 18th. **Raja Rao** (a preacher we have worked with for many years) and his wife, **Kumari**, are the dedicated, hardworking people who direct this effort. They now care for 59 orphans but receive no support for some of them. A new congregation will meet on the premises. Some in the village have been converted and a few of the older kids are Christians too. They will worship in the area that is sleeping quarters for the boys. (They won't have to move any beds; the children sleep on pallets on the concrete floor.) All of the children receive daily Bible teaching and live in a truly loving, spiritual environment. They could certainly use more help: a generator, because of frequent power failures; a water heater—they all wash in cold water; and support for several children who have no sponsor.

As mentioned on page one, most of our work was in **Hyderabad** and **Vijayawada**. When we were there January, 2014 these cities were in the same state, **Andhra Pradesh**, with Hyderabad as the capital. On June 2, 2014 that state officially divided. The northern area became **Telangana** and Hyderabad is the capital. The southern area kept the name Andhra Pradesh. Hyderabad will serve as capital for both states for a few years. Texas has a population of 26 million. Telangana is one sixth our size and their population is 35 million. Andhra Pradesh is one fourth the size of Texas and their population is 50 million. The nation of India has 3.7 times the population of the U.S. and we have nearly 3 times as much land. We have 84 people per square mile and they have nearly 1,000. Their population approaches one billion, three hundred million and they will soon have more people than China. Most visitors to India are overwhelmed by the crowds of people.

The following week Don and I repeated the courses we taught in Hyderabad to nearly sixty different preachers. We had some preaching appointments in the evenings. Tyler was kept busy with preaching opportunities. Rose, Elnora and Michael conducted a Monday through Wednesday women's conference where large crowds attended. They had additional meetings the next two days. Rose and I and the Oelzes spent our last Sunday back in Hyderabad. The Thompsons continued working several days in Vijayawada before leaving for home. The latest report is that **fifty seven people were baptized** as a result of the teaching done by all the visiting workers.

Rose and I plan to leave, with Kerry and Tommie Cain, on March 6 for **Ukraine**. If you plan to send money for the benevolent work there it must reach me by March 4.

Your coworker,

Ronald Coleman