

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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ANDHRA PRADESH, INDIA

I made my first trip to India in 1978 and have been working there regularly since the year 2000. The Christians we work with suggested January as an excellent month to come and we have done that for the past five years. As is usually the case on the January trips, my coworkers were **Bryant Perry**, a deacon in the Wylie congregation, and **Don Oelze** who preaches in Anacortes, Washington. Our first week was in **Hyderabad**, population about 7 million and capital of the state of Andhra Pradesh. We met the **Warner** family from Pasco, Washington. They had been visiting the same Christians we work with. They departed for home about three days after our arrival. **Jeremy**, **Kayla**, and teenage son **Levi** were on their first visit to India. They have for some time been involved in sending help for orphans in India. On their visit Jeremy did some preaching, Kayla spoke at ladies' meetings and we had great reports of their work. A couple of days after they left we were joined by another first-time visitor, **Tyler Thompson** from Stevens Point, Wisconsin. The church there has also been helping to support the orphans. Tyler was in the country a couple of weeks. He was checking on the work being done with the children and also did a lot of preaching and teaching with excellent results. All these newcomers were greatly appreciated by the Indian Christians.

Don and I always concentrate our efforts on training preachers. Our first week we had about 60 men in our classes at the church building in the **Miyapur** area of the city. I taught the morning sessions on **New Testament Warnings to the Church** and Don taught in the afternoon on **Eschatology**. Bryant always conducts a youth camp and does a wonderful job. This year he had about 90 to 100 students. His work with the

young people began late in the afternoon when Don had finished and lasted about three hours. We also had numerous preaching opportunities...in church buildings, homes, and sometimes in open air meetings. One or two of us would be preaching somewhere every night and Bryant and Tyler had some daytime appointments too. On Saturday we traveled to **Vijayawada**, another large city about 150 miles away. Most of our translating is done by the preacher at Miyapur, **Vandan Kumar**, and his brother **Raja Raou**, who preaches in Vijayawada. Another excellent translator who helps I only know as **Nehu**. Raja has most of our work well planned and organized before we arrive.

In Vijayawada on that Saturday evening we went to the orphan home that is under construction—and already houses 48 children. We had a wonderful three hours there, visiting with the children, seeing what has been built and learning what is yet to be finished. We preached at various congregations in the area on Sunday and Bryant left that afternoon to return home. On the Monday, Don and I began our classes with about 50 different preachers, teaching the same subjects as in Hyderabad. Tyler preached in daytime meetings and we all had some evening meetings. On Saturday we all traveled back to Hyderabad. There we all preached on Sunday and Don and I left for home late in the day. Tyler started home a couple of days later. During visits like this many Christians are edified and encouraged. An e-mail from Raja reports that in our preaching efforts **134 were baptized into the Lord**. We also had a few denominational preachers to attend the classes Don and I taught. Three of these were converted. I know there were conversions from the teaching the Warners did but I don't know the numbers on that. I do know that they, and Tyler, plan to return to India. It is a very fruitful place to work for Jesus!

LOSS OF SUPPORT

I have lost the financial support of two wonderful congregations that have helped my foreign mission efforts for *decades*. The **Wieland** church, near Greenville, Texas and **Union** in Somerville, Alabama have recently let me know of this change. The consistent help of these praiseworthy brethren through many years has been a great blessing to many people in other parts of the world. I'm sure the Lord will bless us in replacing the \$550 per month loss. Maybe you know someone who might help!

My next trip will be to **Ukraine** early in March. We always take contributions to help needy people there, most of the money goes to help orphans. My exact departure date is not set but if you plan to send money with me for this important benevolent work it should probably reach me in the first few days of the month.

Your coworker,

Ronald Coleman