



COME OVER AND HELP US ...

"Turn from dead idols to serve the living and true God. "
Acts 16:9 I Thessalonians 1:9.

June 30, 2021

Red Hill Church of Christ
P.O. Box 144
Manchester, TN 37349

Dear Brethren,

I just received a telephone call, similar to several other inquiries concerning our work and current involvement in India as a result of the pandemic with its restrictions on travel and closures of businesses. The latest call, again similar to several other calls, included an inquiry concerning the Manassas Church of Christ India Mission Website. It noted, as have others, that our website is out of date with little information added since 2014. That is a good observation. Allow me to address this matter as briefly as possible because there is a sensitivity about it which can affect our mission work.

We have not just been procrastinating. We have deliberately chosen not to add new material. In fact, several of our fellow missionaries have asked us to remove the website altogether. Why?

The Indian government has the habit of monitoring our website as well as others with whom we have spoken. Anything that they can use to deny visas to missionaries is their goal. The Indian government has very strict rules governing mission work, and most preachers cannot qualify to go to India as missionaries. Only licensed churches who were approved in 1949 can continue to send missionaries to India. The churches of Christ have never been licensed to do so because no one sought to license the church back in 1947-1949 when it could have been done. That door is closed to us. We must send brethren as tourists with all the limitations that imposes on evangelistic work. Those of us who go to India understand this and have learned what is acceptable and what is not.

It appears to be the Indian government's goal to stop all missionary activities. They are pursuing aggressively a policy called "Hindutva" which basically means "India first and only". They do not even want Christian orphanages because they teach Christianity and its philosophy. Over the last two years the Indian government has canceled permission for over 1,600 Christian churches, schools, and orphanages to receive foreign (predominantly US) funds for their operations.

Hopefully, you can understand that we must be very careful what we write about mission work on our website. We try very hard to comply with the India government rules for tourists in order to be able to do some good for the Indian nation which will be a blessing from God to

them.

The present pandemic in India seems to be abating. For the past 2-3 months there has been on average over 400,000 new COVID patients daily. This has now become 65,000 new daily admissions to their hospitals. The people are beginning to be vaccinated with a goal that the majority of the nation will be vaccinated by the end of this year. But this terrible scourge has already caused a chain reaction in the food supply chain. Farmers to not have laborers to harvest produce in their fields. Truck drivers have been restricted from travel with their needed loads of food. In short, the supply chain has failed and people are literally starving to death. The people do not have any money because their savings is long gone and they have no work because the government has restricted them to their houses in most places allowing them to go out for two hours in the mornings and two hours in the evenings to seek food if they have any money to purchase the needed goods. "Sad" is the word for their condition. Let it be written on our hearts. Yes, we must do something.

Last week we sent \$12,700 dollars to India by bank wire. Most of this was for COVID relief. We will send another \$12,000.00 dollars mostly for COVID very soon. Other Team members are in the process of sending \$276,000 dollars to India for COVID relief. We are supplying \$138.00 dollars on average to feed families of four to six members for a month. Maybe that is something you can do ... feed a family for a month ... send us \$138.00 dollars for each family you can help ... we will immediately send it to India. Thank you for your generosity in advance, it will do much good and may save lives ... souls to whom we may be able to teach when it is allowed and safe to do so again.

What of current opportunities to worship and to teach the Gospel to the people of India? We are pleased to report to you that at least 150 people are being baptized every week according to emails and telephone calls I receive. The Indian government subsidizes their telephone use which makes it possible for many brethren to contact us frequently. We hear from at least 2 or 3 brethren every day ... so we are being kept up to date concerning the work. We have every reason to be pleased with our brethren's faithfulness during this terrible pandemic. Many congregations are using the Internet to broadcast their services to their members. Some are attending worship in their church buildings. Others are meeting with family members in their homes. Every attempt is being made to keep up with one another and to help each other as they can. Of course, due to government restrictions the brethren are not allowed to have the large community gatherings to hear the Gospel for which we have become accustomed. God's Word is being taught in small groups and souls are being added to the body of Christ daily. To God be all the praise, thanksgivings and glory.

Brethren, it has been a long time since we have been able to see you. Please let me assure you, we are still in the work. We are working and your funds are making a difference. They are on their way to India. Hopefully, we are reaching a point in time when we will all feel safe to travel and visit again. Juanita and I are missing you and look forward to seeing all of you as soon as we are able. Thank you for your prayers for us, for the Indian work, and know that we have not forgotten you, your prayers for us or your generosity which provides for both benevolence and evangelism in India.

According to our records, we received gifts from you in support of the following:

P. Daniel

P. Joseph

P. Mark

P. John

Pamidipadu School of Preaching

Under the oversight of the Elders

Manassas Church of Christ

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Grace and Peace,

Sincerely in Christ,

Jerris N. Bullard, Missionary

Sam McLarty, India Fund Treasurer