



COME OVER AND HELP US ...

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

July 31, 2021

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

Dear Brethren,

I have been very surprised by how difficult it has been for government and businesses to re-open and get their employees to see that their work and services are done properly and professionally as they were before the nearly two year pandemic. It is also to be observed with regard to the church. Even though most places are fully open, and practically begging for the members to return to in-person worship, many are choosing to wait or not return at all for various reasons. This is also happening in India.

The Indian government has fully opened all churches, allowing all members to attend worship, and for the churches to carry out their normal and usual ministries. However, many brethren are choosing to continue worship services in their homes, especially where the local congregation is streaming their services. I understand the convenience of this, but there is a need for us all to gather with the church in assembly. Much can be gained when we see each other, have conversations together, and give one another the handshake of fellowship.

There is a slow awakening to the opportunities this pandemic has brought. Many people in India are bewildered, depressed, crying out to God for comfort and help when their arms are empty because of what the virus has taken from them. To date, there are no large gatherings of souls to hear the evangelistic message. There is still a fear of the pandemic and its mutations and I understand that. My concern is not that the brethren are not serving, but that they are moving so slowly to reach out. A few hundred souls are being taught and baptized every week. I long for the day when it was common to have reports of two thousand plus daily, seven days per week! That same opportunity will no doubt return, but how many souls may die without the Gospel until that time? Join me in prayer, "O Lord give me souls or I -die!"

One thing that has not needed to wait has been the construction of new church buildings and the upgrading of others. In one area about half-way between Mumbai and Hyderabad, we began construction on a new church building in the village of Baroor. Even though there was a government lockdown, our contractor was clever and built temporary shelters on our property. He kept his men on-site so that during the various lockdowns daily work has continued. The builder has indicated that we may expect to have that building finished by mid-August, ready for worship and service to a heavily Hindu populated area. The preacher, Kiran San Jeeva Rao (known to us by his nickname Chinna) is a graduate of our Pamidipadu School of Preaching. This is his first congregation, and he chose to work in a place where the church did not exist. His Hindu audience has grown from 5 people to 38 with most of them now baptized, after nearly four years of his hard work and good Bible preaching.

It has been a joy to see the faithfulness of our Indian brethren during the past difficult two years. They

have continued to care for one another and to serve to the best of their ability while working around the many government restrictions. We have helped them as much as we could with financial gifts for all sorts of needs: medical, food, housing, continuing to support as many preachers as possible, the purchase of Bibles for free distribution, and often we have sent COVID relief funds to be made available to any who had needs.

The list is long, but the needs have been met by your generosity. Thank you for your continuous help which is greatly needed. Not only do we need benevolent help, but we must begin to prepare for the full awakening of our brethren which will be evidenced in a great evangelistic, spiritual reaching out to the souls of all India. Pray for a great awakening to the opportunities God is presenting our Indian brethren. May God be glorified and the Lord Jesus be lifted up so that He may draw all people to Himself.

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
8110 Signal Hills Road
Manassas, VA 20111-2515

Grace and Peace,

Sincerely in Christ,

Jerris N. Bullard, Missionary

CONTRIBUTION ADDRESS:
India Fund
Manassas Church of Christ
PO Box 190
Manassas, VA 20108