

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM GOOD SHEPHERD MISSION

FROM SIS.MEGHANN, SIS.JEANETTE, BRO.DEAN...
ST.JOSEPH, MISSOURI, USA.

Dear Friend,



*"A voice of one calling in the desert,
'Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.
⁵Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill made low.
The crooked roads shall become straight,
the rough ways smooth.*


⁶And all mankind will see God's salvation.'" Luke 3:4-6

These words from the gospel of Luke foretell the ministry and life of John the Baptist. It is telling that this passage follows Luke 1:38, where Mary is visited by an angel and told that she would be the mother of our Lord and Savior. John becomes the messenger preparing the way for our Lord and Mary accepts God's will for her life, "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Luke 1:38. Both of these servants were simple individuals of no particular fame or prominence. They were willing tools of the Kingdom who without question followed the guidance of God in their lives. I am sure that at times both wondered where they were being led and what was in store for them, yet they continued to follow the path the Lord set before them.

We bring you Christmas greetings from Good Shepherd Mission in Puttur. This has been a busy year for the mission. At the end of December, 2008 a team traveled from Tulsa, OK, led by Andrew and Daleen Nimick founders and directors of Global Network for Independent Missions (GNIM). During their two week trip they vaccinated children for hepatitis B. This trip was closely followed by a team from Wyatt Park Christian Church, St. Joseph, MO led by Dean Mausolf. This group of twelve arrived in early January for two weeks. During this time the team added to the vaccination work started by the GNIM team and participated in numerous clinics. A team of physical therapist assistant students from Missouri Western State University led by Dr. Maureen Raffensperger spent the month of May completing clinical requirements of the PTA program. The year before Dr. Raffensperger traveled to Good Shepherd to establish a physical therapy clinic at the hospital. This clinic provides free services to the poor in the area around Puttur. Without this clinic, patients would have to travel two hours to the town of Thirupathi for expensive physical therapy treatments.

We are continually grateful to all of the partners who continue to support the growing ministry of Good Shepherd mission. The mission is currently constructing a respite care center for HIV/AIDS patients. This center will provide a place for patients to come and spend their final months in peace surrounded by people who love and care for them.

It is a complete joy to see the approximately 150 mission children. Every time we travel we see the growth in the children and watch younger children mature and become young adults. It has



been almost 15 years since the first trip to Good Shepherd by Dean Mausolf, Jack Grove, Stewart McCleary and Charlie Wolfe. During that time we have seen children grow and become part of the staff at the mission and begin families of their own.

Each time we travel we are blessed to be able to visit many of the thirteen rural churches that are sponsored by Good Shepherd. A number of these churches have been built through gifts from partners like you. Each of these churches has an evangelist / pastor to work with the small congregations in those villages. Three churches have been constructed through donations from WPCC, two from vacation bible school donations and one in memory of David Miller, who was a pillar of faith in the WPCC congregation.

Yes, travel to rural India can be challenging and sometimes difficult. However, the sheer joy of the mission, the smiles of the children and sense of service together with our Indian sisters and brothers creates an experience that is never forgotten by those traveling and those at the mission. If you have any inclination to experience this type of mission trip do not hesitate to become a part of a team traveling to Good Shepherd. Your life will truly be changed.

In order for the mission to continue to provide these ministries your prayers and your financial help is needed. Tax deductible gifts may be given through Wyatt Park Christian Church in St Joseph, MO. Every dollar given goes directly to Good Shepherd. Your dollar goes a long, long way in India. An orphan may be sponsored for just \$30 per month. There are dozens of equipment needs large and small that need a financial sponsor.

The gospel of Luke gives us the story of two ordinary people who became giants of our faith, John the Baptist, a preacher's kid; and the Virgin Mary a simple woman pregnant outside of marriage. These two average people did something beyond their scope: they responded to the call of God in their lives. Because of their faithfulness the way was prepared for the single greatest event in mankind, *"in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."* (Luke 2:11). Over 30 year ago Henry and Viola Bhaskar heard the voice of God and felt the nudging of the Holy Spirit and took a handful of poor school boys into their home. They began a mission simply because they, like John and Mary, where willing to be listen to God's voice.

What is God calling you to do? Where is God nudging you to go? Are you listening? Are you seeking God's call in your life? God has a call for each us and when you hear it, will you answer? *"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"*" Isaiah 6:8 TNIV

During this Christmas Season may we all hear the call of God in our life, feel the nudging of the Spirit, AND act upon it.