

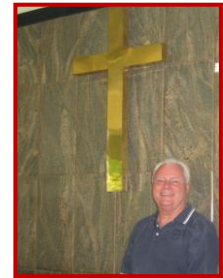
Report from Brother Michael, Pittsburgh, Pa., USA

Regarding Visit to Good Shepherd Mission



FEBRUARY 2009

I departed Pittsburgh, Pa., USA at 1 pm on Tuesday, February, 17 and arrived in Chennai at noon on Thursday, February 19 after stops in La Guardia airport in NJ. And Mumbai, India. Plane ticket decreased by \$600 due to oil price changes. The rupee is 49 per US\$. As always, it was great to see the face of Brothers Henry and Praveen at the airport.



Before I detail the trip to date, let me first thank God for a safe journey and my wife Victoria for being so understanding and tolerant of me. She is struck in freezing Pittsburgh and all of the family burdens fall on her. I am so very blessed to be married to her and for that I am so very thankful.

Upon arriving at the Good Shepherd Mission (GSM), I took a brief nap and enjoyed a service in the nearby town of O.G. Kuppam, known as a town of thieves. Praveen delivered an inspired message and I spoke about being guided by the Holy Spirit to come to India. Henry gave a special prayer for a woman whose husband was in prison.

How did I ever wake up in the morning back home without the morning Hindu music and Henry's message at 5 am and a cold shower? Randy Bierly taught me one thing-I brought a small percolating coffee pot and some Folgers.

Friday morning, Henry and I finally had some time to just talk and we discussed what was happening at GSM and he commented how especially proud of Praveen he was and how much he had grown in the last year. I must say I saw it in the power of his prayer last night. As we talked, there were many fireworks going off in the street in front of GSM and Henry related that this indicated that a funeral was to occur across the street. As Henry knew of the family (he knows everyone), we went and paid our respects. The young man had taken his own life due to his financial situation. He was but 27. We then completed a detailed tour of the hospital, meeting all of the doctors and staff. It was good to see all of them again and to encourage them. On Praveen's motorcycle we went to the Bank of India to complete their regular banking. One big advantage of traveling in a small group or alone is that one can do things one cannot do in a large group. The Bank was crazy-maybe 30 customers on the correct side of the counter and 20 more behind it. We just walked behind the counter also as GSM is considered a special customer.

We visited the AIDS/HIV project in the afternoon. It is really taking shape and one can clearly see how the property will be laid out and how services will be provided. I understand Praveen visits the site every day for prayer and intends to live at the site three days a week once it is completed. The tile workers sleep at the site and work 14 hours days for 400 rupees per day. Try that on your union job.

A German evangelist is using the GSM property to conduct healing and revival services over 3 evenings (Fri, Sat, Sun) so we were his guests on opening night. Henry estimated the crowd at approximately 450. About 75 (many Hindu's) came forward for healing prayers and another 20 accepted the Lord. By the way, it was only 92 degrees today.



On Saturday morning, I visited Praveen's home and got to spend some time with Sam. It is a very nice home and Sam sure is fun to clown around with. Visited the hospital this morning and spent time with all of the doctors. I got to discussing with the orthopedic doctor that I had an artificial knee and he related that neither he nor his staff had seen one. One day soon, I will take an x-ray and they will have one for review.

Spread over two vehicles, about twelve of us departed for Chennai for a special one year memorial service for Brother D.G.S. Dinakaran, an Indian evangelist that was world renown. Henry referred to him as the "Billy Graham" of India. The crowd was estimated at over 100,000. I have read that he attracted crowds in excess of 300,000. Pat Robertson and Benny Hinn made recorded video presentations I recommend you Google his ministry known as JESUS CALLS. I am pleased I got the opportunity to be a part of such an inspiring presentation.



On Sunday, Praveen and I attended the morning worship service at the St Paul's Lutheran Church across the street from the mission. I was asked to speak as a result of attending the viewing the day before. I spoke on being lead by the Holy Spirit and referenced John 14:15-17. We also attended the faith and healing service lead by the German evangelist Sunday evening. It is interesting that many Hindu's come forward for healing and prayers but do not know the Lord as best I can tell. God will not heal them if they will not accept him.

On Monday, Praveen, Sagar and I drove 1 ½ hours to visit a lepers/HIV/AIDS clinic. Some patients are housed there that were originally at GSM. Upon returned, noted that clinic was very slow as to patients. Henry related that the next two days were Hindu holidays and thus will be slow days. I spent the evening with the girls at the hostel. We sat and laughed and they had many questions. Just like many Indians (and some Americans), they wanted to know what Obama mania is all about. The opinion I continue to hear everywhere I go is that Indians do not trust him as he is a Muslim. The girls also asked about money, clothes, education, my wife Victoria, weather, and favorite food types. It was fun to be with them.

I put on a surgical gown and observed cataract surgeries at the Mission on Tuesday. The Mission has an excellent surgeon and I enjoyed the procedures. It reminded me of Rotary eye missions I was a part of in Brazil and the Philippines. Henry and I spent the afternoon discussing projects that could be completed by visiting mission teams. I know that visitors what to be a part of the project and doing things is a great way be involved. We came up with the following ideas so far: paint doors and window frames at house where we sleep; painting throughout the hospital, particularly ceilings and offices; at least six ceiling fans in the hospital do not work; more fans could be installed; hospital bathroom needs shelves; hospital bathroom plumbing is leaking; cracks in walls need spackling before painting; hospital exterior need painting, especially up high; wire air conditioning; make shelves for medical records to get them off the floor.



In the evening, we visited the village of Kakauedu, where about 100 attended the service. I spoke on faith using Hebrews 11:1 as a scripture and Sagar also made a presentation. As usual, we ended the service with lying of hands and praying with the villagers.

I have always observed the ROCK at the top of a small mountain overlooking the Mission about a ½ mile away and wanted to visit it. Well, today was the day. On Wednesday morning, Praveen, three of the boys and I depart at 6 am, before the heat. After scaring the monkeys away, we make it to the top. What great views of the Mission, the mountains and the surrounding area. If an old guy like me can

make it, I recommended you give it a try when you visit the Mission. A funny thing happened as we descended from the Rock. We came down the mountain a different way than we went up. A boy from the Mission evidently brought us tea to enjoy as we descended. Unfortunately, he was on the opposite side of the mountain so he called us on a cell phone. One of the young boys got the call. When asked where we were, he said "We are going to America is see Obama!!" We all got a great laugh.

When we returned, we learned that the Mission had an uninvited visitor about 11 pm Tuesday night near the girl's hostel. Mary's husband Raju walked outside and there was a six foot long Cobra devouring a large frog. It could not move as it was eating, so Raju immediately awakened Mary and the girls to put them on alert. A bird that attacks snakes swooped down and struck the snake, causing it to slither away. Men searched the entire area but could not locate it. Most are confident it will not return as cobras do not like people or that it was attacked by a bird.

We again visited the HIV/AIDS construction site as we do daily. Cement and tile work is progressing quickly. Henry believes the project can be completed in a couple of months. I had both knees x-rays today at the hospital and the staff had a great time observing the prosthetics. While I sat in the reception area just observing, I was approached by a gentleman who proceeded to tell me he had received wonderful treatment at the hospital and that it was a great service to the community.

On Wednesday evening, we drove 70 km to the church built in Pellakur for services. We were greeted by many including Paul and his family that were instrumental in getting the church location approved. This church holds special meaning to be as Victoria and I dedicated this church in the honor of my son Christopher and my daughter Anne Marie. About 90 attended this service of praise and worship. Several young people from the Mission and the church sang, I spoke of the need for daily devotions and Brother Henry also offered his wisdom. We prayed with many in the community, visited the home of a friend of Paul's, where refreshments were served and returned to GSM about 11:30 pm.

Thursday was a special day as we are held special services and a program to praise the memory of Charles Wolfe. We honored him with a large cake (he would have loved it) for the children, a message by Henry and comments by the hospital staff.

Friday provided a first time experience as Henry and I attended a home christening as one of the Kollodam physicians had a new house built. This ceremony can last up to 8 hours. We stayed about one but I enjoyed the chanting, tossing different food items at a shrine constructed in a room and the passing of a flame. Henry and I prayed with the new home owners and then had lunch at the home of a local friend. We returned around 2:15, only to turn around and depart at 4 pm to Taraputi to meet with doctors hoping they will come and work at GSM. We return at 9:15 and have prayer service with the children.

At 9 am on Saturday Henry and I attended the pre-wedding ceremony of the daughter of a local dignitary. We then visit the AIDS/HIV site and then attend the dedication of a new 20 passenger van given to a local Christian school. Henry and I both are asked to speak. In the evening, Henry and I attended the annual ceremony at a large local school. Henry is asked to speak as his was a senior school administrator and was asked to speak as I am a "visiting American". About 1500 in attendance. Quite a celebration.

We celebrated Sunday service by attending the church in Vadamalpet. Victoria and I sponsored this church and I was pleased to see that Bro. Wesley had grown the congregation from 6 to 42. We enjoyed Holy Communion as part of the service. I spoke of God's delight and love for us with Zephaniah 3:17 as the scripture reference and Praveen as spoke. The service lasted 3 hours. Enjoyed watermelon

with the children in the afternoon. The final church service of the day was at a small church lead by Pastor Yesupadam in nearby Govindapalem.

Tuesday was an opportunity to visit the Ramesh family which Victoria and I sponsor. Several months ago, it fell from a coconut tree, braking his back and becoming paralyzed from the waist down. H was a truck driver and thus cannot work. He is married with three children or so we thought. When we agreed to sponsor them, they had three daughters, ages 7, 6 and 10 months. Indian men want sons and he no longer can have one. However, last month someone left a newborn son at their doorstep and they feel blessed. Someone also gave them a Bible which they read daily and I noticed there was a plaque of Christ on the wall. Doesn't the Lord work in mysterious ways?

Just for informational purposes, at 11 am today the temperature was 40 C or 104 Fahrenheit.

Wednesday evening, about 12 of us worshiped at the church in Ayanambakam a drive of about 30 km or 20 miles. This was sponsored by Faith Reformed Church in Wyoming, Michigan. I grew up in this church. It was very exciting to see so many excited for Jesus Christ. This is a Hindu village and had no Christians when the church was built. They now claim 19 in just one year. They are actually expanding the church for anticipated growth.

I am preparing for a unique experience this Friday evening so I ask for your special prayers. After going to the special memorial service in Chennai that attracted 100,000 and after seeing the German evangelist attract a nice crowd, Henry said that we should have a revival service of our own and he has asked me to lead the worship. I have never done such a thing but have agreed. I am pray fully preparing to speak of God's love and hopefully bring some to the Lord. Please pray for me and this service as I know God will put the words in my mouth to bring honor and glory to him.

It has been a unique experience to be at Brother Henry's side for over two weeks. He loves GSM and it's cause so much and is so highly regarded every where we go. When there is a need (and there always is), they go to Brother Henry. I refer to him as "The Man". Great things are being done here and this mission is worthy of your support. GSM and others are teaching them about Jesus Christ and his love. Other religions dominate this country and most people have worshiped a variety of God's their entire life. Pray for the GSM and all Christian efforts in India as it is very difficult to be a Christian here.



CELEBRATING "THANKS GIVING"-IN LOVING MEMORY OF DR.CHARLES WOLFE, USA.



THE HOUSE I STAYED

BRO.MICHAEL PEULER

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