

RECONCILIATION REPORT

GOING FOR INDIA



In trips to Uganda, Kenya, Sudan, and south and central India, I've not seen such intensive training of new believers and church leaders as we saw in Uttar Pradesh, northeast India. Due to possible persecution, we must leave anonymous those with whom we served. An historic spiritual harvest is being gathered in this huge state of 183 million—well over half the US population. The experience of the mission where we served was that in fifty years of ministry just five baptisms were recorded. In roughly the last five years, 5000 baptisms have been recorded. Over 1114 house churches have been planted since 2003, including 20,000 new believers! The vision of our host mission is to plant 10,000 more churches and to see 200,000 new believers by 2012.

Talking with a church planter in the heart of Hinduism—Varanasi (also known as Benares)—he said that all he lacked was more church planters, that harvest time is right now.

How do you prepare leaders to take over these churches and ground new believers? On average, 52% of Indian adults are illiterate, compounding the problem (World Christian Database), while in Uttar Pradesh the figures may be closer to 40% of males and 25% of females being functionally literate.



Inside this issue:

India Mission Report	2-4
Scheduled Ministry	4
Economic Earthquake?	4
Prayer & Praise	4



African American Missionary Census

We're taking a census of these pioneers. See www.RMNI.org for details. Thank you!



Above, Naomi taught ladies, particularly on Proverbs 31 and Mark 5:25-34. In fact two groups asked her to teach on Proverbs 31, as word spread.

At left, from left, Naomi Gibson, Tim Schoap, Crys Henderson, Joe Huescher, arriving in Amsterdam, en route to India.

Five training programs were in place when we arrived. Church planters are given three-to-five days of training per month, new believers are given three days of training, while house church leaders are instructed over three weeks. A more intensive School of Biblical Teaching lasts for three months. In addition, the ministry has 100 schools for Dalit children—most of them meeting under trees. The Hindu teachers employed are brought in for training each month. Children are taught the 10 Commandments, the Lord's Prayer and gospel songs, and quite a few of the teachers and parents have accepted Christ as they have taught the Bible to the children.

Having noticed a link to Third Millennium (www.thirdmill.org) on our website Teaching section, our host asked me to bring over four seminary-level video courses and to facilitate them for his senior leaders. We covered "Primeval History: Genesis 1-11," and "The Story of Abraham," both taught by Dr. Richard Pratt, of Reformed Theological Seminary, Orlando. We usually met between 5:30 and 8 PM. The courses were so well received that a new "Ministry Training Network" has now been established, using 3rd Mill materials as a foundation, and an Indian church plant team leader as the director. Perhaps a Doctor of Ministry degree will eventually be offered. Dr. Pratt plans a visit in the near future.

What I hadn't seen in East Africa and Southern Sudan, or in working with another indigenous Indian ministry in south and central India, was either the intensity of training or the accountability for the material presented. Exams were given—at 5 AM. Another mission reaching Uttar Pradesh is training an estimated 7-8,000 leaders, and utilizes the campus where we stayed for 3-4 days a month. Around 9 PM one evening about 100 of them were sitting in circles grading 1200 exams. Women were also being taught, and could progress in a series of leadership levels. Contact us if you'd like to become involved in this harvest field. Jim



Certificates displayed by senior leaders successfully completing the video courses in Genesis provided by Dr. Pratt. A class is below.



As a way to measure our contribution, we taught men (and some women) for a total of about 2392 (60 minute) student hours; women for 528 student hours; children about 200 student hours and video seminary classes for senior leaders for another 200 hours. We preached in chapel to about 120 people for 9 days.



Below, Tim is teaching a class of new believers about the Bible.





Crys taught at a resident home for children, and everywhere else she could.



Joe (left) taught Romans 1-8 to church leaders, among his opportunities. His teaching was definitely appreciated.



An Indian leader is teaching church planters about persecution, which they can certainly anticipate. Uttar Pradesh is less than 2% Christian.

A cremation site on the Ganges at Varanasi (Benares). It's believed that if a Hindu is cremated here and the ashes put into the Ganges, the bad karma (deeds) of 1,000 lifetimes is undone.



Temple of Shiva, at Benares Hindu University

The Economic Earthquake?

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Mobilizing the African American Church for Global Mission

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The “economic earthquake” that financial teacher Larry Burkett predicted in 1991 seems to have shaken the globe. For about 25 years we’ve been trying to get God’s people to become debt-free. The truth that “The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender” (Proverbs 22:7, NIV) is evident in the many takeovers by those with cash. Similarly “Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle.”(Proverbs 23:5) is verified by the daily financial news. Debt is never a position of blessing, but instead is a position of risk. Moving forward on a cash-only basis is prudent, and possible, if our basic contentment is of biblical proportions—food and clothing (1 Tim. 6:8). Anything beyond these is God’s grace. Having visited many villages and people in deep poverty, believers there often have greater joy. Christ said: "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." (Luke 12:15). He also said, “Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." Hebrews 13:5. Larry kept reminding us of these truths, that we can bank on.

Scheduled ministry activities: China trip and meetings with church leaders, Oct. 11-19; Teaching a workshop on accountability at a Cedine Men’s Retreat, Oct. 25-26; Teaching on the need for African American missionaries, Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, Baltimore, Oct.31-Nov. 2. We plan to host an African American mobilizer Nov. 15-16 and an African American missionary couple Nov. 22-23. Jim plans to teach missions in Sunday School for four Sundays in Nov. and Dec. Weekly inner city evangelism/discipleship ministry and ongoing AfAm missionary census-gathering continue.

Prayer and Praise

↑ If you feel led to join those to whom we send special email prayer requests (and answers to prayer), please email Jim@RMNI.org
We recognize our dependence upon God’s grace, through intercession.
↑ Thanks for praying for the India trip. The climate, jet lag and heavy teaching schedule (which we wanted) combined to make it a very challenging trip. The Team was wonderful and

our hosts very gracious. God gave favor.
↑ Please pray for the China trip, Oct. 11-19, to meet with Christian leaders, that Jim will fully steward this great opportunity .
↑ Andre plans another trip to Chattanooga Oct. 24-27 to continue to lay the foundation for a church plant at the Westside housing project.
↑ To devote adequate time to the AfAm missionary census and to locate all AfAm

missionaries.
↑ Please pray that God will condescend to use teaching opportunities in October at Cedine Ministries and at Mt. Moriah Baptist Church in Baltimore to advance His work (see above schedule).
↑ Wisdom is needed in planning for ministry trips in 2009.
↑ Jim’s Dad is scheduled for surgery on Oct. 9. Please pray that circulation in his feet will greatly improve.

