

Tom Shanklin Ministries



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Dear Friends,

The special capacity of humans is to hope. . . to dream. . . to plan. . . to plot a course. . . to envision something unseen by the natural eye. . . and to bring that vision to fruition and fulfillment.

You have that special capacity in your life today. What you do with it is your choice, but it is there. Dare to dream! Dare to believe in something great, something glorious, something progressive, something that can only occur as the power of the Creator is released in your life! Today is the day to chart a course, to mark out a plan, to intensify and coagulate the vision of your heart until it becomes like a laser beam of life-changing power. It's time to see beyond the ordinary, the mundane, and to live in the realm where "all things are possible."

In the days of William Carey, pioneer missionary to India and father of the modern missionary movement, India was called a "gold mine for souls which seems to be as deep as the center of the earth." Carey told his supporters, "I will venture to go down, but remember that you — you who remain at home — must hold the ropes."

I am sitting in the airport at Amsterdam, Netherlands, on my way home from two weeks of intense gold mining operations. As I reflect back on those days, I am quite simply amazed by what God has done through our partnership together. It has been a time of tremendous fruitfulness and expansion of the Kingdom of God.



Everywhere I went, people responded eagerly to the Word of the Gospel. In churches, among Bible school students, at a pastor's conference and in open air evangelistic meetings, God's Word immediately took root and bore much fruit. I ministered individually to a multitude of people and preached 19 times in Gospel meetings, which were held in the State of Andhra Pradesh, southern India, in villages within a 350 km (200 mile) radius of Hyderabad. We traveled to three different areas—east, north and south of the city.

What I will share here is only a small fraction of the events that took place in the last two weeks of January, 2007. To tell everything would require a book. Ministry in this part of the world is reminiscent of the four gospels and the book of Acts. Every day is filled with excitement, adventure, changed lives and signs and wonders in the name of Jesus. Traveling to India is like a venture into another world, with the alien culture, the fascinating environment, and the multitudes of people who are captivated by dark unseen forces, worshipping mysterious gods made by hand.

I am so thankful for the intercession of our prayer partners for this missionary venture. I certainly felt the covering of prayer. At no time during the trip did I feel unsafe and although I traveled in areas of heavy demonic activity, I felt no sense of oppression during my time in India. There were some trials, however, but we overcame them by the grace of God.



Go ye into all the world and preach. . . (Mark 16:15)

As my plane was about to land in India, the captain announced that the luggage for everyone on board had been left in Amsterdam due to a tremendous windstorm there. My luggage did not arrive in India until I was half way through my time there. I also suffered a fairly severe head cold and some intense tiredness, due to a heavy travel schedule, difficult living conditions, and a very heavy ministry schedule. For those of us from America, who are used to soft beds, toilets, and drinkable water, village ministry in India is not exactly a luxury cruise. But the results and rewards of such an excursion are beyond explanation, as one's heart is stirred for hungry and needy souls. Through it all, the Lord made it clear that the major key to overcoming these trials was to not allow the devil to steal my joy. As long as I kept a thankful heart, these trials became only minor obstacles. Through your prayers, you have effectively "held the ropes" so that I might go down into the mine.



wife of Rama, the great god of India) After being raised from the dead, the Christians gave her the name of Rebekha. She is pictured here under the thatched-roof church with her daughter, Dr. Benjamin (seated) and Pastor Francis.

GOD, WHO RAISES THE DEAD

Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead? (Acts 26:8, KJV).

One of the highlights on my trip was the opportunity to meet a woman who had been raised from the dead through prayer, along with her family. Her name is Rebekha Seeseakammara of Machareddy (pop. 12,000) which is located northeast of Hyderabad. Her name before being raised was Seetha (meaning

Relatives and friends had gathered to mourn the woman's death when Pastor T. Francis of Lingampet prayed for her to be raised. When she was raised from the dead, her family and many friends became Christians, and the word has spread throughout the region about the great miracle which had occurred. As a result, a church is being established in Machareddy.

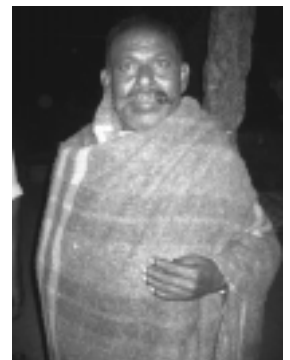
The meeting which we held in her village turned out to be a night of miracles. After hearing her testimony and other miracles that had occurred in that place, I was stirred to preach a sermon on "The God of Miracles." I shared many miracles from the Word of God as well as healings that I had seen and experienced in my own ministry. During my message I wove in the Gospel message, sharing with the people that the greatest miracle of all is that a person can be "born again" by the Spirit of God.

Preaching to a small crowd under a thatched roof structure which serves as temporary housing for the fledgling church, 16 people responded to make Jesus Christ their Lord and Savior. As we began to pray for the sick, there were immediate results. Sicknesses and pains immediately left the people's bodies. One woman, who was being carried by four people down the nearby road to a hospital stopped in the meeting place for prayer. She was doubled up with pain and could not stand, but was laying on the ground. After prayer, the pain left her and she could once again stand. Her daughter was delivered of a demon and also delivered from pain in her body. After prayer, she fell to the ground, and in fact, we were concerned that she was injured. But she was raised up and healed by God's mighty hand.

I also met a man at that place who had been demon possessed and had spent his days in raving madness, running around the area naked. But after prayer, this man had been delivered and when I met him, he was in his right mind and fully clothed. A sister testified of the great deliverance which had occurred in her brother's life.

A GOLD MINE FOR SOULS

While in India, we had the opportunity to pray with approximately 150 people for salvation. Also, many believers prayed a prayer of total consecration of their lives to the Lord. In Vadala (pop. 5,000) in the Kurnool District, we held a small open air crusade. I preached a simple message on the Prodigal Son, and almost everyone present came forward to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. This particular village had an Anglican church. However, the Gospel message was not being preached. Many of the villages of Andhra Pradesh are unreached or under-reached. In some cases, missionaries have come and preached the Gospel and established churches. However, the indigenous leadership that was left to continue the work was unprepared to follow up and continue to build up the believers and to evangelize.



This is why we are blessed to join forces in India with Dr. Ileen Benjamin and Calvary Commission India. With four Bible schools, this ministry is training scores of ministers each year and has planted 250 churches all over Andhra Pradesh. With over 20 years of development, this ministry is now in prime position to win souls, make disciples and establish more churches in southern India. By working with ministries like this, we are able to multiply our effectiveness. When we preach the Gospel and win souls, we are immediately able to point the new converts to a pastor for water baptism and discipleship, and we are able to know that the work we are doing is building something permanent and substantial in the remote villages of Andhra Pradesh. Also, through continued financial support and partnership with Calvary Commission India, we are able to facilitate the continued expansion of the kingdom of God into this region of the world. As partners of this ministry, you can be sure that you are helping us to efficiently fulfill the Lord's commission to "Go into the world and preach the Gospel."

RETURN TO RAGADAGUDUR

Another village open air crusade was held in Ragadagudur (pop. 10,000) also in the Kurnool District, where we had preached the Gospel when we visited India in 2005. This is a place where I had witnessed a great hunger for the Lord, including children, who came by day to Bible classes to hear the word of God, and who danced with joy in response to the Good News. In fact, on the earlier trip, I had asked that we stay in the community an additional night to preach the Gospel.

On this trip, it was evident that the Gospel fires were still burning. Many of the children, who remembered me from the last trip, came to me after the meeting with excitement in their hearts. I spoke on the subject, "The Sin of Idolatry." I shared from several passages, including Acts 17, where Paul's heart was provoked by the idolatry in Athens, and where he told the hearers to repent of idolatry and turn to the living God through Jesus Christ.



I wasn't sure how this would go, since it involved quite a bit of teaching from the Word, rather than just a simple sermon, but the people were patient and eager to hear the Word. About 25 people came forward to repent and receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. India's population is 80 percent Hindu, a religion which promotes the worship of thousands of false gods. Fueled by superstition and demonic influence, this religion holds a powerful religious and cultural bondage on the people.

The next morning I spoke in a Pentecostal Church in the same village on the subject, "Where are the Elijahs of God?" challenging the congregation to make a clear stand against evil and for the Lord in their dark region. Everyone in the church responded with enthusiasm to the altar call.

While we were in Ragadagudur, a decision was made to expand the outreach of Calvary Commission India into the Kurnool District in a greater way. In fact, Pastor T. Francis plans to move to that village and establish a work for the Lord, focusing first on the young people of the community. So, it's exciting that we were able to be a part of a major change of strategy and direction for that particular region.

PASTORS RECHARGED AT LAKMAPUR

At Lakmapur (pop. 3,000) in Nizamabad District, we held a three-day pastor's conference, where I spoke to 94 pastors and 26 pastor's wives. I spoke on "Cultivating Vision for Your Ministry." I challenged them to break



out of the limitations of their culture and environment and accomplish great things for God. Through these sessions, a spirit of revival and encouragement grew among the pastors and they expressed great gratitude for the ministry they had received. The photo here was taken in between sessions. The taller man leaning on a pole is Vijay (our driver) who I prayed with for salvation the last time I was in India. The meetings were held outdoors under the shade of a tent.

In one of the sessions, I spoke on the subject "Preach the Gospel"—encouraging the pastors to not forget to keep the Gospel message and the Cross at the forefront and center of their ministries. I encouraged them to be faithful in giving altar calls and calling the people to repentance. Although it was a

pastor's conference, I said, there may be people present who had not accepted the Lord. I then gave an altar call and four people came forward to repent of their sins and to receive Christ as Savior and Lord. Two of those followed the Lord in baptism by immersion later the same day. Glory to God!

On my last day of ministry, an open air crusade was canceled because the people of the particular village had all gone to a wedding. As a result, we held a small home meeting in Kurnool, at a home where we were staying. About 15-20 people were present. I spoke on taking up our cross, following the Lord with earnestness, and being willing to suffer for the Gospel. The entire group responded to an altar call with a cry to make their lives count for the Lord. Of that group, three people decided to be baptized in water the next day. By morning, a fourth had also decided to obey the Lord in water baptism. It was a glorious way to end a tremendous time of fruitful ministry, as four souls, buried their old life in water baptism. Here am I, pictured with the four people who received water baptism.



IT IS BECAUSE WE WORKED TOGETHER

The success of this trip is not to the glory of any man or organization, but to the glory of God. The reason it was successful is that God's people worked together for His glory. The partners of this ministry sacrificially gave and the ministry expenses for the trip were met. The prayer partners held our hands up and pushed back the forces of darkness. My wife, Susan, was willing to sacrifice and take care of things at home, while I was away for over two weeks. Also, the cooperation between our ministry and Calvary Commission India became a catalyst for a mighty release of power and anointing. You see, it is by working together that we will continue to see much fruit for the Kingdom of God.

Tom Shanklin Ministries is called to reach people from all nations and from all walks of life. We are to minister not only to those who are rich in this world's goods, but also to "preach the Gospel to the poor." This is why your partnership is so vital to the success of this mission. I challenge you to use what you have in this life for eternal purposes. I can think of nothing more significant than the work we are doing together to "Go into all world and preach the Gospel. . ." As a result of your faithfulness, heaven will be populated. Your support is needed and greatly appreciated at this time. May God bless you!

Teaming up,

Tom Shanklin

P.S. This month we are offering once again a message on CD called "The Mission of the Church: What's Holding You Back?" Please write and ask for your free copy today!

PLEASE PRAY FOR THESE UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Sunday, Feb. 4, 10 a.m., For His Glory Church, Log Cabin, City Park, Spring Grove, MN. 507-725-2984

Friday-Sunday, Feb. 9-11, Church of the Living Water, Baudette, MN, 218-634-2135.

Wednesday, Feb. 14, Home Bible Study, Bruce Shockman, LaMoure, ND. 701-883-4349

Sunday, Feb. 18, 2007, 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m., New Life Fellowship, Tolna, ND. 701-883-4349

Monday, Feb. 19, 7 p.m., Psalm 91 Prayer Group, Americinn, Fargo, ND. 701-293-3386

Sunday, Feb. 25, 10 a.m., Open Arms Church, Howard Lake, MN. 320-286-5858

Sunday, March 4, 10 a.m., For His Glory Church, Log Cabin, City Park, Spring Grove, MN. 507-725-2984

Sunday, March 11, 10 a.m. & 6:30 p.m., River's Harvest Church, Onalaska, WI. 608-781-8778

Sunday, March 18, Faith Family Christian Center, Hendricks, MN. 605-832-3701

Sunday, March 25, 9:30 a.m., Harvest Heights Church, Ridgeway, MN. 507-452-8524

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