



# Hope Ministries *Update*

Bringing the Hope of Jesus to India Since 1979

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Dear Friends,

Greetings in Jesus wonderful Name!

Jaya and I have returned from India after visiting and ministering there for six months. I want to thank you for your faithful support and prayers that enable us to continue this vital work in India.

God continues to direct us to reach the lost, feed the hungry, clothe the naked and shelter the homeless. *"Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?" Isaiah 58:6*

As you may remember last year, in 2008, we moved our annual Gospel

## *Gospel Meetings*

meetings from Mori, our home base, to Gopavaram, our children's home in the tribal area. This was the first time in 28 years that Mori had not had a crusade. The phones rang off the hook! Many people complained. So, after praying over the matter, we felt that we should again conduct the crusade at Mori.

When we held the crusade on January 20<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>, more attended than in the past, especially the local people. In each meeting people sat on the ground for hours to listen to the Gospel. We fed over 10,000 people in our four day Gospel meetings.

During the last night of the crusade, when when altar call was given, several hundred stood up to give their lives to Jesus! Most of these were first-time decisions; some rededicated their lives. We baptized over 20 new believers. Praise the Lord!

It was past midnight before a call was made for the sick and suffering to stand up for prayer. About 500 stood! When we had prayed over them and closed the meeting, it was 12:30 AM. Yet some were still hungry, saying that we had closed the meeting too early! I know that many were healed that night and even more later. Four months later, in May, a man came to visit me, and shared what had happened to him that night:



"In the last meeting of the crusade, before you asked the sick to stand, I was walking out. But when I heard the invitation for people, 'to lay your hands wherever you have sickness,' I felt that I should stop and lay my hands on my knees where I had felt pain for a long time. As soon as you finished the prayer, I felt that my bones moved and the pain was gone. I was completely healed! Ever since then, I wanted to tell you, but had no opportunity. Now I am able to walk free of pain." What a blessing! Praise the Lord for His healing power!

## Jacob's Mom Went to be with the Lord



*Dhanamma Beera  
in February 2009*

My mother, Dhanamma (meaning 'rich woman'), went to be with the Lord on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March, 2009. She was in her mid-80's, having lived a long and full life. My dad had also passed away in March on the 2nd,

in 1992.

From the 1960's my Mother had been a Christian and was a leader of the Hope Ministries work. She was a woman of faith and a great prayer warrior. Fifteen years ago, she suffered a heart attack, but God prolonged her life.

Each time we were leaving India for the states, she would have everyone gather around to give us a sendoff. She would raise her hands and pray. For the last five years, while I was getting in the car to leave, she would begin to cry and say, "I

don't know if I will be here when you come back next time." I would reassure her, "Yes, you will be here and you will surely never leave without me being here." We thank God for His wonderful faithfulness!

This year during January crusade, she said "This is probably the last crusade that I will attend here."

During the last week of February, she started to have some difficulties with her heart. She could not walk very far and had a hard time getting to the bathroom. A couple of days before her passing, she began to say, "I'm going to go soon. The angels are coming for me." Then a few times she said, "Let's go." We asked, "Where do you want to go?" She said, "To our house, to our home." "But, you are at our house," we assured her. "No, this is not our house," she insisted, "Our house is up there."

"Wait... wait." she said a few times. We asked, "What are you saying?" "I'm talking to the angels," she replied. Mother was lying down and not fully conscious when all these things were being said. She was confined to her bed for only the last four days.

On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, she had not eaten anything all day. Around 8 PM, she was

having difficulty breathing, so we set her up in a reclining chair. Then I asked her if she would like to eat something. She nodded her head. After I fed her four spoonfuls of food, she began to make a gargling sound. We tried to help and immediately called the doctor. He was there within ten minutes and tried to give an intravenous injection, but couldn't find her veins. As I assisted the doctor the whole family was standing around her. I wondered why she was not feeling any pain and looked up at her face. Then she lifted her head, opened her eyes wide as she looked up, and breathed her last. "She is gone," I said to the doctor. It was 8:30 PM.

Hours later we saw that Mother's face was noticeably different. It seemed transformed as though she had gone back to her mid-40's. There was a glow. Praise be to God!

Since we don't embalm in India, the next day, by noon, we buried her. Perhaps as many as two thousand came to the funeral. It seemed like most of our villagers came to pay their respects.

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.

## God Answers Prayers

■ During the first part of June, a woman who is a Hindu convert came forward for prayer after the church service in Mori. She requested prayer for her husband who was attempting to go to the Arab countries in order to find work. She said that he had been trying for months without any success. We prayed for God's will for this family and for open doors. After a couple of weeks, she came forward and shared how God had answered our prayers and opened the doors. What a blessing it was to see her praising God for the answered prayer.

To leave one's family behind and go to the Arab countries seeking work is common among Indians. They sacrifice their lives to support and provide for their families. After a few years of work, some are able to come home permanently. The extra sacrifice and work will help them overcome poverty and live a better life.

■ Another converted Hindu woman came requesting prayer for her daughter. As is the custom, the family had been seeking a husband for their daughter, but in vain.



Though a family had been interested, they had hesitated because the girl's father had a bad reputation as an alcoholic. The woman went on to say, "My husband would beat me and the children. He would even chase us around the house from time to time with a stick or a knife. It is a shameful thing for us, especially when the neighbors are watching. Please pray for my family and pray that we find a mate for our daughter."

I knew very well this family's history. They used to be rich. Thirty years ago my mother had worked in their cashew-processing plant. After becoming a Christian, my mother had suffered persecution

and false accusation from them. So she had to quit her job. Soon afterwards, they went bankrupt and lost everything. Later the accusers apologized, but they are still poor. Some of them had become Christians through my mother's witness and are now attending our church. This woman that I was praying for is from that family. Her alcoholic husband is still a Hindu. She requested prayer for his salvation and their daughter's marriage.

A few weeks after we had prayed, she came with her daughter to share the news. She was very happy and excited that God had answered prayers saying that everything had worked out for the marriage and that the date was set. Her brothers had offered more money than what she had asked them. More money was still needed to pay for the wedding expenses. "We need your help," she said, "My husband is not doing anything to help." So we gave her some money as a gift from Hope church. Now they are happily married and attended church as a couple to praise the Lord! Please pray for this family to continue to grow in their faith.

# Hope Church Dedication

As you may know we have been building Hope Church at Mori for the last four years. I want thank the Church Upon

the Rock for their generous contribution to this church construction. I also want to thank everyone who helped us with prayers



*Dedication Service In Hope Church at Mori*



*Pastor Cal & Jacob praying*



*Jesse Schlabach sharing*

and finances. Through your generosity the building has now been completed and was dedicated on March 14th 2009 for the service of our Lord Jesus Christ. Hundreds came from the surrounding villages, Pastors came from various churches, political leaders, and our village officials also attended. It was a glorious time of praise and worship to the Lord in the new sanctuary! Gifts were distributed to all who came; a Hope hymn book, and a snack of sweet and hot mixture.

It was dedicated by Pastor Cal Schlabach of the Church Upon the Rock in Hartville, Ohio. He came with his son Jesse. This was their first trip to India. Their church has been faithful supporters of Hope Ministries for quite some time..

They arrived on February 23rd and stayed until March 16th. During this time, they traveled and visited all of our children's homes and spoke in various gospel meetings. God used them to minister with many people. They were an encouragement and comfort to our family when my mother passed away.

Since we started meeting in the new church building a year ago, even before it was completed, the congregation started to grow. It gives me great joy to see that believers, most whom were once Hindus, are now growing in faith and deed. They are excited about the Lord and inviting their family and other Hindu friends to attend church with them. We know that it is a big challenge for them to bring their Hindu families, but God is answering their prayers by bringing them, one at a time.

Once again thank you all for your prayers and generous gifts toward building this church. God bless you!

## Evangelism

We have approximately 300 evangelists in our association. Some are still facing persecution. This year one of them was killed by radical groups. We are saddened by the loss of one of our brothers who has been preaching the Gospel to the tribal people in Orissa region. Please pray for the family that is left behind.

Another evangelist was beaten by police as he was walking home after sharing the Gospel in a tribal village. They kept him in the jail for four days and beat

him every day. His body was badly bruised and became very weak. We prayed with him and helped him with some medical bills.



*Praying with a group of evangelists work in tribal areas*

Please pray that God continues to protect our evangelists to finish the task.

In spite of all these hindrances, the Gospel is going forward. More than ever before Hindus are accepting Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Our evangelists are still strong and excited about the Lord and their ministry. Thank you all for your prayers and monthly support for these evangelists. Many of our Evangelists are still in need of sponsors. You may support one for \$30. a month. Your support is vital and needed to continue this work. *"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few."*

## School Building at Gopavaram

The construction of the new school building at the New Testament Children's Home in Gopavaram, in the jungle area, has now been completed. We prayed and dedicated this building on June 27<sup>th</sup> a couple of days before we left India. All of the children and staff and the Hope Evangelists who work in the surrounding tribal villages gathered for this dedication.



Finally, there are rooms to conduct classes without using the children's home building. Also, this place will serve as a meeting place for our evangelists to come together for prayer and fellowship once a month. Many thanks to Mr. Steve Tricamo and his family for their generous donation and others who have helped build this building. We know that God will bless those who have given generously. Many children's lives will be transformed in this place in the years to come.



## Upper Room Children's Home Addition

We are adding a second floor on top of the existing building at the Upper Room Children's Home in Eluru. Once completed, the children will have a larger sleeping area. I want to thank the Upper Room Fellowship in Columbiana, Ohio, for their regular support for this home, and also for their generous gifts toward this construction. We hope to finish in a few months. You may yet help us to finish this building.



## Weddings

I was blessed to perform weddings for four young people who were raised in our children's homes from the age of six or seven. Now they are working and in a position to provide for their families. Most importantly they are Christians. Please pray for God's blessing to be upon these newlyweds.

Our children are very grateful for their sponsors and remember them in their daily prayers. Thank you so much for making a difference in these children's lives!



## Bunk beds

As you may remember, we requested help for building bunk beds for our children. Finally, we have started making them. The first batch of 20 is being made at Hope Children's Home in Mori. I would like to provide enough beds for all our children. At present we need 200 of them. Each bunk bed is made of steel



*under construction*

pipes and includes a mattress, sheets and pillows and costs over \$150. Here is an opportunity to help make these children's lives a little more comfortable. I know our children will be very grateful. We want to thank each of you who have already given toward this cause and let you know that once they are finished, you will receive photos.

Some children still are in need of sponsors. You may become a sponsor for \$20 per month.

I want to thank all of you who are doing so much to help make this ministry possible. May God Bless you and prosper you!



*Stacy & Jesse*

*Jacob & Jaya Beera*

### ...A Children's Home

For \$20 per month, you can sponsor a child in one of our children's homes. We will send you a photograph of the children that are being fed, clothed, sheltered and educated in one of our children's homes. We will also supply information about an individual child at your request.

### ...An Evangelist

For \$30 per month, you can sponsor an evangelist to reach the lost. We'll send you a photo and testimony. So many are willing to go, but they need your help to be sent.



### Children in Children's Home

- I want to sponsor \_\_\_ child(ren)
- \$20.00 per month  \$240.00 for a year
- Evangelist(s)** \_\_\_\_\_
- \$30.00 per month  \$360.00 for a year
- \$25.00 for a lantern  \$25.00 for a Drum
- \$50.00 for a bicycle
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ Bunk beds
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ Children's home building
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ Where needed
- Please send more information

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

*All gifts are tax-deductible*

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