

# TAKING THE SAVING GOSPEL TO A LOST WORLD

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"...GO INTO ALL THE  
WORLD AND PREACH THE  
GOSPEL TO EVERY  
CREATURE..."

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## ANDHRA PRADESH, INDIA

I have just returned from India, working with **Don Oelze** and **Bryant Perry**. Don (who preaches in **Anacortes, Washington**) has many years of foreign mission experience and has been several times to India. This is the third time Bryant has been sent there by the church in **Wylie, Texas**. These congregations are to be commended for being involved in this important work. Bryant takes vacation time to go and because of his job back home couldn't stay with us the whole time.

As you know, India is *extremely* poor and overpopulated. The poverty is very distressing to see. They have so many problems and the papers, it seems, are just full of tragic news every day. Our first few days there several **terrorists' bombs** exploded, killing dozens...not, thankfully, near where we were. More than 30 other bombs were found by the police and the country is on high alert. A **fire on a train** during the night killed 36. A **truck** loaded with laborers went into a river—50 killed. A **stampede of worshippers** leaving a Hindu temple killed 146 and injured 250. The victims were mostly women and children. *Many* were killed as the **monsoon rains** destroyed homes and swept away vehicles. Rice is the staple food of the poor and many newly planted **rice fields were ruined**. There were **riots** against the government in one state—many injured and a strict curfew imposed. Indian and Pakistani troops had **armed clashes** across their border. These problems and so many others just seem to be typical for India.

We arrived in **Hyderabad** on Saturday and preached in that area Sunday morning before leaving on a six-hour road trip to **Vijayawada**. During the week Bryant had daytime sessions with young people from the region. He is very talented at this and had a similar successful work last year. Young Christians were strengthened and encouraged and seven of his students were brought to the Lord. Don and I had daytime classes with about 50 Indian preachers. Some had come quite some distance. I believe one of the best ways we can help the church in that country is to train preachers. Most of these men have had very limited opportunities for in-depth Bible study. This time Don taught **Romans** and my subject was **2 Timothy**. All three of us were involved in nighttime preaching in the area.

We reluctantly said goodbye to Bryant who headed back home through Hyderabad. He was safely escorted by Vandan Kumar, one of the preachers we work with...also one of our best translators. Don and I preached on the Sunday at Vijayawada and then traveled with our Indian coworkers to **Rajahmundry**, about a four-hour drive. There, on the weekdays, we taught our same courses to a new group of 50 preachers and preached various places in the evenings. We had never worked in this city before. A total of **58 were baptized** in the places where Bryant, Don and I preached.

I believe our work was a great blessing to the church and will result in better quality preaching—by men who understand their work better and are more devoted to preaching the truth in love.

Our third Sunday Don and I were scheduled to preach again in Hyderabad but could not get there due to flooding brought on by very heavy monsoon rains. We preached again in Vijayawada. We were able, however, to get to Hyderabad on time to catch our 3 am Tuesday morning flight.

Rose and I will soon be traveling to Utah where I will speak each of the three days at the annual **Labor Day Weekend Encampment** on Mount Nebo in the Uinta National Forest. I plan to leave **October 3<sup>rd</sup> for Ukraine**. *If you want to send help for the orphans in Kremenchuk, funds should reach me by October 1.*

There is no end to the *benevolent needs* in a country like India. We were not able to do all we wanted but could supply help in numerous cases. Most of the money we had for this purpose was used to feed many who lost all in the floods, for various medical matters and to assist particularly poor Christian families. One of the Christians in Vijayawada has a **two-year old deaf girl**. I mentioned her last year. With equipment loaned to me by a brother in Nashville, Tennessee—Dr. Stephen Cantrell—I was able to perform a test on her to see if she might be helped in some relatively inexpensive way. The results were discouraging, confirming what we had been told—that her only hope will be a very expensive Cochlear Implant. By “very expensive” I mean possibly \$25,000. (The family’s income is \$60 per month.) I will continue to research this matter. It can be done in India and