

# The Blanc Family

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Global Academic Director ...Teaching with a Mission

## February 2011

### *The Indian Experience, Part 2*

#### *Itinerate Ministry (continued from Traveling Mercies in January, 2011)*

The second phase of the Indian experience took place immediately after the Indian Christian Bethel Baptist Gospel Fellowship (ICBBGF) conference. Our team was partitioned and dispatched for itinerate preaching ministry in the village churches of the Nidumolu region. The churches are part of the Fellowship and warmly welcomed us with great attentiveness to the Word of God. It is amazing, though customary, that after the New Year's celebration the Indian people will assemble in large numbers for a non-Sunday meeting...and on short notice! Children are represented well among the churches, a strong indication of the growth of these assemblies and also of the future of Christianity in India. Upon departing from Nidumolu and bidding farewell to our gracious hosts, we traveled by overnight train to the city of Hyderabad.



Preaching in the rural churches.



The children of India eager to attend a church meeting.

In Hyderabad we were met by Dr. P.

D. Emmanuel, Founder (1974) and Director of Sathyaveda (True Word) Ministries based in Bangalore. Dr. Emmanuel (affectionately known as "PD") was accompanied by several pastor associates and we were able to fellowship with them in Bible study and in prayer. It was a precious time of renewal and encouragement. Later in the evening we organized a meeting at a partnering church in an area of Hyderabad, infamously referred to as "India's largest slum." The constricted streets and stacked apartments accentuated the overcrowded conditions.

Walking the streets toward the small chapel that evening, I was reminded of the similar steps Jesus took on many paths in the midst of the multitudes.<sup>1</sup> It also brought to mind the symbol of the "city set on



Dr. P. D. Emmanuel (Left) and pastors.

a hill" that cannot be hid (Matt. 5:14) and the call to "let your light so shine before men" (Matt. 5:16). Within the same analogy is the radiance of Christ (Jn. 1:9, "the true light that gives light") and the reflected glory that emanates from our witness (Matt. 5:14, "you are the light of the world"). Such light penetrates the darkness of sin, death, despair, doubt, fear, hopelessness, and suffering...it cannot be overcome and offers deliverance (Jn. 1:5). The light metaphor is obvious when understood from the pages of Scripture, but it breathes with life as a gospel preacher when you traverse the darkened narrow paths of this world en route to an appointed conflict with the powers of darkness.

<sup>1</sup> I hasten to add Peter's admonition here to "follow His steps" (1 Pet. 2:21). I think also of John who reminds us that whoever claims to live in God should also live as Jesus did (1 Jn. 2:6). John used the Greek verb *peripateo* which uses the metaphor of "walking" to demonstrate how one should conduct their life. Do we not commonly say of our Christian life that it is a "walk," even more commonly that it is a *journey*?

C. H. Spurgeon, the great 19<sup>th</sup> century London preacher, often observed that he preached as “a dying man to dying men.” More to the point, Spurgeon regarded his pulpit ministry in these terms: “While the candle is held out to burn, the vilest sinner may return.” Indeed, the candle, the penetrating light of truth shines into the darkened hearts of men whether in the blackness of the night watches, or in the brilliant sun of the noon day (2 Cor. 4:6). Such was my prayer and hope as I made my way to the meeting. That night Michael Cosgrove gave his testimony and I preached an evangelistic appeal from Mark 1:1, the good news about Jesus the Messiah with PD as my translator. Following the invitation, many gave their hearts to the Lord Jesus Christ. Praise the Lord! The light still shines; such is the tense in the Greek at John 1:5, “the light in the darkness *keeps on shining*” and so Spurgeon anthems, “While the candle *keeps being held out...the vilest may return.*”



C. H. Spurgeon  
(1834-92)

To be continued, Lord willing...

Dr. Douglas A. Blanc, Sr.

## Prayer & Praise

- Thank you for faithfully praying for our family and for this ministry.
- Thanks also for encouraging notes and email (or Facebook) correspondence.

### Specifically:

- Please pray that the Lord will open the door to present the ministry to **churches**.
- Please pray for a growing network of **partners**. The opportunities are vast and support is needed.
- Pray for the upcoming **teacher training seminar** at Cornerstone Baptist Church on March 5 (Geneseo, NY).
- We are thankful for the **Bible study group** that meets weekly in our home. Pray for continued spiritual enrichment for the members.

## Family News

For many football fans, especially those of the Buffalo Bills and the New York Giants, January 27, 1991 will indelibly mark one of the most eventful occasions in sport. With only seconds remaining in Super Bowl XXV, Bills kicker Scott Norwood’s attempt for glory sailed wide right leaving the Giants to run out the clock and win. The game went down in history... For our family, that day 20 years ago will not be remembered for the scene of Norwood’s understandable dejection, but as the occasion for the birth of our 4<sup>th</sup> child. I was pastoring Community Baptist Church in Drexel, North Carolina. Sally was admitted into a nearby hospital in labor. At 4am she was at 2cm and in the early stages of what

appeared to be several hours of labor. Her desire was for me to continue with Sunday responsibilities at the church. I took our three children home, then on to church, calling the hospital for frequent updates. The last update I received had Sally at 4cm and thinking there was plenty of time, I continued on at the church. An hour later, my next call to the hospital was to receive the news of the birth of a son. She had gone from 4cm-10cm in less than an hour. Sally delivered Dayton Charles on January 27, 1991...twenty years ago. We’ll never forget!

## Itinerary

January 26-May 13, 2011	Teaching Ethics and Comparative Religions at Fulton-Montgomery Community College (Johnstown, NY).
February 20, 2011	Preaching at Community Bible Church in Fort Plain, New York. Wally Braemer, pastor.
March 5, 2011	Conducting a 3-module Teacher Training Seminar for Christian Education workers at Cornerstone Baptist Church in Geneseo, New York. John Zatkiewicz, pastor.
March 6, 2011	Ministry presentation and preaching at Cornerstone Baptist Church in Geneseo, New York. John Zatkiewicz, pastor.
May 30-July 1, 2011	Teaching Ethics and at Fulton-Montgomery Community College (Johnstown, NY).
August 18-25, 2011	Mission Training School and Leadership Conference at IGM Mission Central (Rochester, New York).

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