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Global Academic Director ... *Teaching with a Mission*

January 2011

The Indian Experience, Part 1

Traveling Mercies

I recently had the opportunity to return to India as part of a four-man IGM team (see photo). It must be noted at the outset that the Lord was gracious in directing our travel to India as well as blessing our efforts in India. A snow storm pounded the East Coast closing JFK airport in New York City. By all estimations it would be two full days to reopen the airport, delaying our departure to the point where it was being debated whether to attempt the trip. Within a matter of hours our flight was redirected through O'Hare in Chicago with a direct flight into New Delhi with no delay to our anticipated itinerary. Without sharing the events of those "hours" while all hung in the balance, it was no small thing that we were able to go without delay.

We tend to focus our prayers on the ministry and not the travel, but praise the Lord that He intervenes and cares for both! I think of the gospel hymn, "His Eye is On the Sparrow," by lyricist Civilla D. Martin and composer Charles H. Gabriel (1905). "His eye is on the sparrow and I know He watches me." I am also reminded of 1 Peter 5:7 where in times of duress Peter admonishes us to cast all of our anxieties upon God. Why? Peter observes, because "He cares for us." The Greek verbs in the passage indicate that at the moment anxieties arise in our heart we are to throw them on God. The reason Peter cites is that God is constantly giving careful thought to our concerns in order to secure the proper response. In other words, we can "keep" rather than "cast" and secure nothing but debilitating worry, or we can cast with patient expectation as to what God will do. Yes, this is a simple lesson, but one with profound impact upon daily living.

Ministry Blessings

Our itinerary included three elements. First, we participated in the 60th anniversary conference of Baptist India Ministries¹ in Nidumolu where I was given the opportunity to speak at the daily convocations of conference attendees, the ICBBGF (below) pastors, and the students of Mt. Zion Baptist Bible College and Seminary. Conference attendees estimated at 5,000 by the close of the week-long event. Additional conference speakers included Dr. Chris Hindal (GARBC International Ministries Director), Dr. James Maxwell (President of Faith Baptist Bible College and Theological Seminary), and Dr. Shahn Wilburn (Pastor of Riverview Baptist Church and Chairman of the Board of Trustees for Piedmont Baptist College and Graduate School). Those attending the conference arrived on the grounds having prayed and fasted in preparation for a great work of God in their midst. Conference



Left to Right: Douglas Blanc, Gary Newhart, Michael Cosgrove, and Patrick Garrett

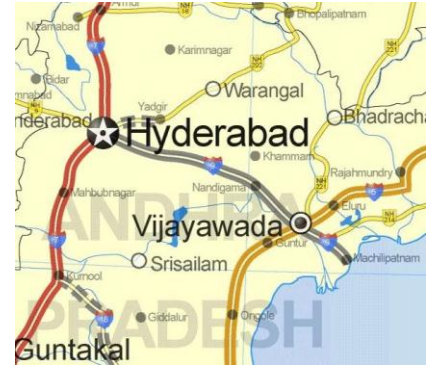


By conference end, wall-to-wall people inside with as many or more outside.

¹ Visit <http://www.baptistindia.org/index.asp>.

participants sat on a concrete floor for hours to hear a succession of preachers expound the Word of God. More than two-thirds of the attendees made up an overflow audience who exceeded the limited space of the enclosed facility. Large screen video projection and multiple loud speakers permitted everyone to take part without inconvenience.

Under the direction of Dr. Chatla Devasahayam, Baptist India Ministries is a comprehensive indigenous force in the region of Andhra Pradesh (called “The Rice Bowl of India” with more than 80 million inhabitants), touching the lives of thousands through medicine, public school, Bible College, orphanage, and church-planting. The church-planting arm of BIM, the Indian Christian Bethel Baptist Gospel Fellowship (ICBBGF), has given birth to more than 500 churches in the course of its 60-year history. Fully 80% of its churches are located in villages and towns where there is no gospel witness. Fully 75% of the 12,000 ICBBGF believers are not born into Christian families, but heard the gospel and responded to the love and work of Christ.



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.
- Thank you for your prayers concerning the recent fruitful trip to India (pastors taught, souls saved, schools visited, Word of God preached, doors opened).

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 regarding plans to speak and conduct seminars at a pastor training conference in Manila, **Philippines** (May 2-6, 2011).
- We are thankful for the **Bible study group** that meets weekly in our home. Pray for continued spiritual enrichment for the members.

Family News

How is it in your neck of the woods? Here in the Foothills of the Adirondack Mountains we’ve experienced lots of snow in recent days and bitterly cold temperatures. Not unusual for us this time of year, but

many places (perhaps where you are) are unexpectedly experiencing the same conditions.

Along those lines, I’ve come to appreciate our son Adam. He has faithfully cleaned the snow from our driveway and walks after each storm. You should know this is without a snow blower, old school, with a snow shovel.

Adam has been saving his dad’s back in more ways than one this winter. In addition, we have been moving boxed portions of my library, stored in the basement of our dear friends nearby. Heavy boxes of books! Adam has been loading and unloading the pickup. Such a great help.

Itinerary

January 26-May 13, 2011	Teaching Ethics and Comparative Religions at Fulton-Montgomery Community College (Johnstown, NY).
May 2-6, 2011	IPFBM (International Partnership of Fundamental Baptist Ministries) Regional Conference in Manila (Philippines).
May 9-13, 2011	IGM Leadership Conference in Rochester, NY.

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**Independent Gospel Missions
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