

Cathy and I are in the U.S.

Many have been asking if we are in India. Normally, we would be there at this time, preparing for Bible camp, attending graduations and helping to open new schools.

Covid-19 In India

We have been praying fervently for our Indian brethren over the past several weeks, as we imagined the potential impact of this deadly



virus on third-world countries such as India. Compared to other countries, at this point, India has not been as affected. In the photo above, our staff and children at the DNI campus work to prepare food for widows, police and other officials.

CHILDREN SENT FROM CHILDREN'S HOMES

By strict instruction from the government, several weeks ago we had to send the children out of our children's homes. The purpose was to avoid large gatherings and enforce social-distancing. Many children were sent to live with distant relatives. Those who absolutely have no kindred were allowed to remain on campus by special permission.

We are now very concerned for our children and call or contact them almost daily. It is very difficult for these young ones, as most of these temporary residences are with Hindus. Additionally, some did not have enough food to properly feed our children. In those instances, we are supplying limited funds to assist.

Almost daily, the children are begging to come back to their home. They miss the love and fellowship of their brothers and sisters as well as the great food provided by our staff. The Child Welfare Committee is now considering allowing some of our older children to return. We plan to quarantine each child for a minimum of three days when they come back, checking their temperature morning and evening. We cannot afford for this virus to enter our campuses.

In the photo below, the older boys who were allowed to remain on campus harvested vegetables and shared with elderly and locals who were suffering as a result of the quarantine. The people were very thankful and it was a great opportunity for God to be glorified.



EFFECT ON 2,628 NEWLY BAPTIZED SOULS

The Covid-19 quarantine came on the heels of our most recent campaign during which 2,628 obeyed the gospel, four new congregations were established, and 17,429 heard the gospel message. Sadly, most of these new babes-in-Christ still have not been able to attend their first worship service. The brothers are working hard to stay in contact and taking every opportunity to strengthen these new souls.

REVEALING INTERVIEW WITH AN EVANGELIST

For many years, my American brethren have been asking how these men win souls in India. Our fellow-worker, Arul (photo), is a very effective evangelist and agreed to an interview.



He has three sons, one daughter and a mentally challenged spouse, but no obstacle seems to dampen the enthusiasm of this fifty-year-old warrior. Formerly trapped in a denomination, Arul had a zeal for God but without

knowledge of the church and God's plan of salvation. Muthusami, another of our powerful evangelists, met and taught him over a period of six months. Following his baptism, Arul successfully taught many from the Pentecostal church out of which he had come. He was trained in our school of preaching in Tanjore for 18 months and now works as a self-supported preacher in two congregations of the churches of Christ which he has started.

“How would you describe a typical campaign day?”

Arul explained that he goes into villages in the morning where he has already been teaching for many months. The campaigns give him direction and cause him to set goals, closing out many on-going studies. On a typical campaign-day he conducts 8-10 Bible studies with 3-5 souls in each, allowing him to teach the soul-saving-gospel to around 30 souls per day.

Arul faces a lot of opposition from high caste Hindus who chide him and tell him to go and preach to low-caste people. Denominational people oppose him and tell him he should go to the Hindus. When meeting hostility, Arul does not push. Meekly, he goes his way and returns with a different approach.

“Exactly how and what do you teach the people?”

Arul continued to explain how he has different approaches according to the background of the one he wants to teach. He starts with a positive affirmation, teaching how we are created by one God and how God created man rather than man creating God. An important point for idolaters.

It is a favorite way of teaching for our brother to move to teach about the beauty of heaven and how that holy place, our eternal home, is reserved for certain people. Next, he talks about our physical houses, asking “If your children were outside, walking in disgusting filth, would you allow them into your house without first being cleansed?” They usually reply, “How could we allow that?” After lengthy teaching about God's righteousness and the repulsiveness of sin, Arul explains that God will not allow anyone into heaven without first being cleansed.

The balance of the study focuses on the blood of Jesus Christ and how one comes into contact with that blood by being baptized into Christ.

Brother Arul explained the importance of the campaigns by saying he sometimes gets lonely and discouraged. He is thankful, saying the fellowship of fellow-soldiers during the campaigns are a boost of enthusiasm.

Arul won 22 souls in this most recent campaign.

ISAKKI BITTEN BY POISONOUS VIPER



Isakki (15), along with his sister, Pavithra (13), live at our Deva Keribai Illam campus. Both are outstanding children with a remarkable Bible knowledge.

A week ago, while performing routine cleaning chores on our campus, Isakki was bitten on his foot by a snake. According to the description, the snake was an extremely poisonous viper.

Our brothers immediately rushed Isakki to the hospital, where he was treated and placed in intensive care. In addition to our prayerful concerns for this young man, we were concerned for our staff who remained at the hospital for several days, even in the wake of the Covid-19 outbreak. Isakki is back at our campus and has now fully recovered. We are thankful to our Father for hearing and answering our many prayers. We love this boy and we are thankful he is with us.

Photo: The Russell viper is one of the most typical snakes found in Tamil Nadu, India.



NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
BANNER ELK, NC
PERMIT NO. 25

India Missions
Church of Christ
PO Box 1413
Banner Elk, NC 28604

TAMILI NEWS

NEWSLETTER FOR
DON AND CATHY NERSON



Photo: Amid the Corona Virus outbreak, the staff from our DNI home serve food to widows nearby our campus. Our children helped prepare the food.

APRIL 2020