

News from India

*August
2014*



We've Changed Our Name!

Mid-India Christian Services, Bethlehem, has changed to Bethlehem Living Water! This change reflects our administrative break from Mid-India Christian Mission. Things were getting too unwieldy as the college, eye hospital, school and other ministries have grown.

What else changes:

- Our new Web address is www.BethlehemLivingWater.com

What stays the same:

- Support for the churches the college has planted.
- Support for the Christian widows and school children.
- The goat project.
- The sewing machines project.
- All the work currently done by the Bible college.

Questions? Call us at 513.335.4474.



Bethlehem Living Water

Dear friends in Christ,

Greetings from a very hot India.

We have had a very hot summer with temperatures reaching 119°! It was very difficult to be outside, so we were mostly inside the house or in our office.

Our Wednesday chapel and ladies' Bible study closed for summer at the end of March. We had a fun and very interesting year with our Bible study which Romola leads. We studied the men of the Bible and finished 67 characters.

We had to finish all the college courses by the end of March, because the underground water level dropped so low that we couldn't keep the students past the first week of April. That's when they had their semester exams, before going home for summer.

Six young men from the northeast didn't have enough funds to travel the difficult journey home. They asked if we could let them stay here, and we agreed. We took care of them with food, a room cooler (a box fan which uses water), and water.



Just before graduation, **we had a farewell program for our twelve seniors.** It was a happy but emotional evening as these young men were leaving after three years of living

with us. All shared their thoughts before we had a special prayer for them.



April, May and June are the summer months in India and are very hot. Our students go home for summer vacation but our offices on campus never close. We are busy with all sorts of projects. As every summer, we do as much repair work as we can.



This summer, we repaired all the cafeteria tables and benches, and sealed the roof of the college. We built two toilets built in the office building for the ladies' staff, built a large overhang (to protect the entrance to our classrooms during the rainy season), repaired the sink where students wash their plates everyday, whitewashed the whole office building (plus dorms, cafeteria and kitchen), replaced broken window glass

(classrooms), changed screens in the dorms to keep mosquitoes and flies out, built a carport for staff mopeds, renovated a computer classroom, and tiled the walkway in the entrance to the college. All this work took a good three months' time as everything here is done by hand labor.

Jay, Romola, Jason & Jessica were in America during these three months. They visited many churches and friends. Their trip was very fruitful and uplifting. Thanks to all who hosted them in their churches and homes, or took them out to eat.

We decided to admit young women as students to our college. We had been getting their requests for sometime, but we didn't have proper facilities. This summer, we did additional construction and repair work in our unfinished building and got two big rooms ready for young women. We will use another room in the same building for the dorm mom.



Thanks to those friends who contributed for the renovation of the rooms and for furniture.

We interviewed women for the dorm mom and found a very nice Christian widow who has two children of her own attending college. She has worked for a different mission for 26 years.

We have accepted applications from six young women to attend as students. Please pray for these young women, who will be arriving in July, and for us to be able to take care of them properly.

We killed eight poisonous snakes on campus this summer and the monsoon is yet to come (rain drives the snakes out of their dens). Please pray for the safety of all on campus, especially our kids.



Family Notes—

Steven sat for his 12th grade exams. These are exams conducted by the central board of education of our state. 5,15,884 students took this exam. Steven got A+ overall, with distinction in Biology, Physics, Chemistry and English. We are so proud of him.

He has decided to go to a Bible college in America. He had to take the TOEFL (Test Of English as a Foreign Language). We had to travel 5 hours for him to take this test.

When we went to the center, we learned that students take months of coaching classes before they take this exam! Steven studied for an hour a day for a week from a book we got through the Internet.

Bethlehem Living Water

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Fortunately, Steven scored very high on the test and is now getting email letters from different colleges and universities in America and other English-speaking countries who are inviting him to study there and offering very good scholarships. So we have been busy all summer, filling out forms, traveling for his Toefl test, and getting his student VISA.

We also got Jason and Jessica's 9th grade test results. Both did very well and got very good marks. Numreta's two friends have been depressed, for different reasons. One is a Christian and the other is not. Please pray for both.

We would like to thank you all for your continuous prayers and support. We thank God for your partnership.

In His service –

Jay & Romola

Ernest & Numreta

“Teaching the Gospel through service”