



News from India

*February
2015*

Greeting from India!

It started raining in late December and continued wet and colder than usual into January.

Classes at the college started on January 5th. We celebrated the Silver Jubilee of moving into our college building which God provided that was dedicated January 31st, 1989. (Before this, Jay taught Bible classes in his living room for 14 years.) Jay shared the history of the college, and one of the faculty members (a 2001 Bethlehem Bible College graduate) shared his memories and thoughts. We had a special song and all of us had dinner together. It was a very touching service, and we praise God for this miracle, from which graduates are spreading the gospel.

We received letter from a 1995 graduate of Bethlehem Bible College. He currently preaches in a church in his own hometown and works with a Christian organization called Caravs. He also shared his thoughts and gratitude towards the college and towards its leaders. He said that he is where is he because of the opportunity he got to study the Word here at Bethlehem. All praise to God.

We had two teams of visitors; four friends from Florida, followed by a couple from Miamitown. Our friends from Florida taught at a seminar for our students and our preachers with Romola and Numreta translating some of the sessions. The groups visited local churches, even preaching at the church in Delhi. Our Florida friends even joined us in a cricket match with staff and students. All of our guests participated in our Wednesday chapel and enjoyed (hopefully!) our cultural program that we like to present for visitors. We were blessed to have them with us, and we were greatly encouraged by their visits.

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Help us go green!

Beginning with our very next newsletter, we're going to send newsletters by email. Reduced paper, reduced postage. More money for India.

We also plan to go to a smaller format and email monthly. But, to do this successfully, we need your (yes, that's you) email address! So, while you're thinking of it, right now, **please email your electronic address to editorBLW@gmail.com**. (You can also subscribe from our website.)

We promise not to sell your address or use it for any other purpose.

We'll continue to mail (quarterly) to people without Internet access.

Bethlehem Living Water

With the start of the new semester, our Wednesday chapel and ladies Bible study both resumed. During Wednesday chapel, we have Bible quiz, Bible games, action songs and other fun activities which everyone forwards to. We even have a puppet show for our small kids.

Romola leads our campus ladies' Bible study. They meet on Saturdays and spend a few hours together. The ladies study, share prayer needs, have tea and snacks and enjoy the fellowship.

Family News

We were happy to have Steve home for Christmas. He got to see a few of his school friends (those who were not away at college) and also visited some of his high school teachers. He got good grades his first semester and his instructors are pleased with him (and we're proud of him, too!). He had to get back to school January 14th, before his 19th birthday. (It was very cold in Lancing when he arrived.) It was the first time that he was not with us on his birthday. We missed him, but served birthday cake with tea to everyone after our Wednesday chapel. It is still hard for us to see him go so far away. Please pray for his studies and continued good health.

Jason and Jessica were busy with their half-yearly exams; preparing for their final practicals in Biology, Physics and Chemistry. They will have their final board exams this March.

We are very grateful to all of you for your continuous prayers and support. You are all a very important part of our ministry, and we thank God for friends like you.

In His service-

Jay Romola, Ernest and Numreta.



Good News!

We have added the ability to donate by Pay Pal to our website. Check it out at

www.bethlehemlivingwater.com

Donate



A True Story

We have a pastor in a small town with about 68 believers. People in general (and especially the police) there are very much against Christians and therefore against preaching. Because of this opposition, prayer meetings are held secretly in one of the Christian homes.

One such Friday as the prayer meeting was going on, people heard a faint cry of a little girl from next door (neighbors are not Christians). Our pastor rushed there, followed by others at the meeting, to find that two sisters made a fire inside their house to keep the house warm. Unfortunately, they had shut all the doors and windows. Both girls had fainted and their pulse was very low. They had almost suffocated from the smoke and lack of oxygen inside the room. Our pastor called an ambulance, and the girls were rushed to the hospital.

Later, our pastor went to visit the girls but, outside the hospital, a dozen policemen surrounded him and pointed to his hand bag (which said "Love, believe and do" with our mission's name at the bottom). They started harassing him saying, "You work for this mission, don't you? And you go around giving out Bibles, trying to convert people to Christianity."

At first, our pastor was frightened because he knew that the policemen could do anything they wanted. He prayed continuously in his heart and told the policemen that he was a pastor of this church where people come by their own freewill. He said, "Give me proof of any forced conversion and then you can arrest me." They continued to accuse him with false allegations and threatened him. Our pastor said that he constantly thought of Paul and stayed strong. After a long time they let him go, but warned him that they will keep watching him.

Please keep this pastor in your prayers. (The two girls were saved by a matter of only a few minutes)

Our Trip to India

. . . was wonderful and heartbreaking all wrapped up in one. The poverty is just unimaginable. Not just the lack of physically resources like adequate drinking water, clothing and shelter; the spiritual poverty was overwhelming. People desperately need to find the one true God who can do all things.

On a more personal level, there was heartbreak at the college from the empty rooms in the dorm. Empty rooms means fewer students and, in turn, fewer workers for the overly-ripe mission field of India. I pray that the God who can provide all things will stir our friends and partners of Bethlehem Living Water to give sacrificially to help increase the workers being sent into the mission field.

Now for the wonderful part: Our team of four got to share in the teaching of God's word to some wonderful students and ministers. Their thirst for the word of God is inspiring. The love that is shared on the campus for each other and the kingdom of God is very encouraging.

We took two young men and future leaders of our church with us this trip. They were completely amazed by what they saw: the culture of India, the need for the gospel, and the extreme love and dedication of the Henry and McFarland families.

I would encourage any missions team to send a group to actually see the work first hand. Being a minister, I know how hard it is get missions dollars, and I, like you, want to make sure that every dollar is spent wisely. So from the bottom of my heart let me say, "Go and see the work!" You will be thrilled to see that every dollar is used wisely and for the best of the kingdom. In fact, I am amazed at what they can, and have, done with so little. But, that is the power of mighty God working in, and through, honest and trustworthy servants. I am proud to be a part of the work in India and you should be too. God bless your work for the kingdom wherever you are.

Steve Kelly

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We are sad to report that Dave Conover, one of our board members, passed away in November after a three-year battle with cancer. Dave and his wife, Becky, began working with us in 2003, taking part in the widow's and children's sponsorship program. A few years later, he joined our board of directors and was serving as board secretary when he died. Dave and Becky also served as field representatives for the mission. (Becky, bless her, continues in this capacity.)

We will miss his tireless efforts, his cheerful optimism, his gentle humor, and his compassionate heart. We already miss his baritone chuckle and his arm around our shoulders. Dave was indeed a good friend and colleague.

“Teaching the Gospel through service”