

Grace Bible College Jamshedpur

January-April, 2017

Dear Friends,

“ In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love.” 1 Peter 1:6-8a.

The Indian Church has now for quite some time, been finding itself ‘out of its comfort zone’. Christians as a community and individually are challenged in their following of the Lord Jesus. Accusations of causing unruliness and disharmony are falsely imposed. Standing for social reform is interpreted as trapping the simpleton.

Peter in writing to a similar situation, if not worse, exhorts the scattered ‘pilgrims’ of Asia Minor to ‘gird up the loins of your mind’. Interestingly, Peter recognizes that the trials do cause grief and pain. But when seen in light of the eternal praise, honor and glory it should cause us to rejoice. As we celebrate the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, may our faith and hope in God be strengthened.

College: In the month of December, classes got over early. Our students got busy singing carols with our local believers. It was a blessed opportunity to meet up with families and rejoice in the Lord. For most of our students, it was their maiden experience. Students also spent time in the villages of Bengal and Odisha. Our local Church Pastors took our students to unreached areas where they spent time with the villagers. Their efforts have led a few families to come in contact with our local pastor.

Apart from regular classes and in-house activities, our students have also aggressively put in efforts to grow vegetables. It is a refreshing change. We hope that the revenue generated from the sale will take care of their food expenses partly.



Currently, our students are in the midst of their semester exams. Seven of them will be graduating on the 20th of April. After which, our students will be visiting villages of Jharkhand, Bengal and Odisha for outreach. Please pray for safety and provision. We estimate an expense of 20,000 rupees.

Church Ministry: While reporting about the various Church activities have been scanty, please be assured that our faithful team of missionaries and church volunteers have been true to their task. We are blessed to testify about the growth of our believers in Bihar. Rev. Thomas Das, our field supervisor of Bihar reports of believers who are gathering in Gaya and Purnea. In Gaya, our



membership strength is slowly rising. We are currently meeting in five villages. It is heart-warming to see believers being grounded in the Word of God. Much time is spent in discipleship training. Currently, we are looking for a small piece of land to construct a Church building. Please do pray for this need.



Rev. Anil Kisku is delighted to report of the growth of our churches in Odisha, Bengal and Jharkhand. Recently, we witnessed believers join fellowship in Odisha. Due to growth in the Church, a daughter church is being planted in a near-by village. We will soon be constructing a mud structure. Bro. Rajesh who is currently placed in Ranchi, reports of members growing in the Lord. He has been



mentoring and teaching them to grow firm in their faith.

Our bi-annual **Women's conference** is being held from the 24-26 April 2017. Women from all our churches will gather in Baniakunder (Jharkhand) for

a time of study, prayer and fellowship. We expect a gathering of 150 ladies both young and old. Some of them will travel overnight. Please do pray for journey mercies as well as protection from the heat. Currently, it is quite hot !

Fund Raising: Our vision to become locally sustained continues. While local churches and believers continue to partner with us, we still need many more to join us in our outreach to unreached areas. We have been taking small steps to implement other models of fundraising. To this effect our workers are encouraged to use their skills in the marketplace. At the college campus, we are starting a Kindergarten (Grace Kindergarten) in June, with an aim to prepare children for admission into bigger schools. Please pray that the Lord will provide us with good teachers, support staff and children.



Children's Ministry: Our work among children has been severely hit. With the closing of support from Compassion International, support to 270 children at Baniakunder has been affected. Most have stopped coming to the centre. Currently we have 70 children who are regularly attending the centre for tuitions. We have had to stop providing for the mid-day meals. Currently we have only one full time staff family whose salary had to be lowered by half ! We continue to look up to the Lord for this present need. It is our desire to make the centre self sustained. We will be starting a poultry farm soon. An estimated initial investment of Rs. One lac will be needed. Your donation will be a blessing to the children of the centre.

Our centre at Don and Jamshedpur is progressing slowly. We are blessed to see children completing their school. Presently, they await their results, following which most of them will join college for

their intermediate studies. Apart from the financial need, our children are constantly in need of spiritual



and academic guidance. Please pray that our staff will be able to be the influence that brings them to the saving knowledge of our Lord.

Testimony: Purshottampur, Bihar: My name is Narayan Kumar. I am ten years old. We are five members in the family. Since last two years, I lost my sight. I was unable to move around. My parents had to help me in my daily chores. But interestingly, in my blindness I could see Satan. My father used to scold me. He thought that I was losing my mind.

In the mean time, my cousin had come to know the Lord Jesus. He used to tell me that Jesus could heal me from my blindness. I called my cousin to come and pray for me. As he prayed, I felt my fear lifted and my sight got slightly better. Jesus had indeed healed me! However, my parents were not happy that I had invited believers of Jesus to my house. They instead, insisted a witch doctor be brought to our house.

The witch doctor after reciting mystical verses wanted me to repeat the same. I did not recite. Instead I kept praying to Jesus. The witch doctor could feel that his spells were not working. He left the house in a hurry. I felt relieved. My parents were stunned to see this incident. They had never seen a witch doctor go empty handed. God had done a miracle in my house.

I praise God that my parents and siblings have now come to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. My sight is slowly recovering. I can now see better and do things by myself. God is using me to reach out to

others through songs and prayer. We are now members of our local church and are being taught from the Bible regularly.

Prayer Points :

1. For our students who are going to Giridih and parts of Odisha for outreach ministry.
2. For our Women's conference (24-26, April), which is being held at Baniakunder.
3. For our upcoming Kindergarten that opens in June.
4. For our missionary kids who need support for their education.

May God be your portion.

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