

International FOCUS Ministries

May
2006

P.O. Box 699
Pickerington, OH 43147

Phone: 614-833-0266

FAX: 614-833-0283

HMfiddler@insight.rr.com

www.internationalfocusministries.net

internationalfocusministries-internationalfocusministries-internationalfocusministries



Special Announcement



NEW POST OFFICE BOX NUMBER

Due to the reconstruction and enlargement of our local post office a change has taken place for all who maintained a large box. Our box number has been given to the smaller boxes. Since we need a large box our number had to be changed.

THE NEW NUMBER IS P.O. BOX 699

Please make a note of this and make the necessary changes in your records.



2006 INDIA

PART TWO

Ministry in the State of Kerala

Following our meetings in Andhra Pradesh we flew from Hyderabad to Calicut via Mumbai (Bombay). We were joined in Mumbai by Dr. V.V. Thomas who flew with us to Calicut. Brother Thomas is the professor of Church History at Union Biblical Seminary in Pune and the director of our Malabar Theological College located in Chungathara in the Malabar Region.

Our school, about two hours drive from the airport, is in the Malappuram District where approximately 86% of the people are Muslim. Over the past 12 years we have seen this school grow from a small training center into an accredited Theological College. From last year's graduation class of 24 young men, 18 have planted new

churches in previous un-reached areas. Five of the graduates are working with other pastors and one young man is on staff at our school.

Cheryl conducted two of the eight medical camps in this area at two of our four elementary schools. She will tell you all about that. In addition to teaching at this Bible school, I was joined by Joey K. in conducting a three day Family Life Conference on our campus. This conference proved to be of inestimable value to our pastors and their wives. We discovered an area of tremendous need among our pastors families that needs to be addressed and we have committed ourselves to doing a number of such conferences each year. In addition, we have placed Brother Joey on our Faculty to come for one full week each month to teach this subject to our students.

The tide of resistance and persecution is on the rise in India. Certain areas of the country are much worse than others as a non conversion law is attempting to be put in place by militant Hindus. These militants are very active in trying to stop any form of evangelism, especially the evangelistic gospel meetings weather in open air or rented halls. Three times Cheryl and I had to give photo copies of our passports and visas to the police. But it did not stop our meetings.



Photo: Harley teaching Family Life Conference

The president of the community where we conducted one of the medical camps came to welcome us. She was so thrilled that we had come to this very poverty stricken area to conduct a free medical camp. She told us of the deplorable sanitary conditions these people face daily and requested assistance in building 10 toilets. I am happy to report a dear pastor friend of ours has given the money to build 10 toilets and that project is now underway.



Photo: Harley praying & commissioning Young graduates to preach in un-reached areas

We joined with the pastors of IPC and others from other fellowships for a COMMON WORSHIP SERVICE. Over 800 pastors and Christian workers were in attendance. This was part of the IPC convention which was an open air convention and crusade. I was able to preach, even with the police chief (a believer) in that area in attendance at the meeting. Many were wonderfully touched by the Lord.



Photo: Harley preaching at open air common worship service

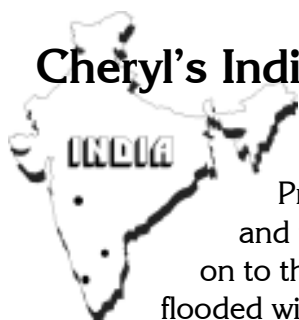
One of the highlights during our time here was the special “laying on of hands” and commissioning 10 more young preachers that finished their studies this year. Two of these men have returned to Nepal. It is through them we hope to advance the ministry of our school and plant new churches in that area predominated by Hindus.

This area is one of our *Regional Transformation Centers* and I would like to invite



Photo: Cheryl, Harley, Dr. Matthews, James line up of mixture of Hindus and Muslims for Free Medical Camp Conducted at our first elementary school.

you to join us in bringing transformation to many thousands in this region through evangelism, medical camps, Bible school, elementary schools, and various other forms of social help. We need your prayers and your financial assistance to do all that must be done for these needy people. Please write and let me know you are willing to become a prayer and financial partner for this ministry in the Malabar Region of Kerala.



Cheryl's India Encounter (Part 2)

We had been in Andhra Pradesh one and a half weeks and the time came for us to move on to the state of Kerala. I was flooded with mixed emotions as I packed; wanting to stay yet excited to meet the rest of my India family. I knew when I got to India I would fall in love with the people and the place. I did very quickly and it was hard to say goodbye to my family in Vijayawada and Hyderabad.

We put in a full day of travel and landed in tropical Kerala in the early evening. It was very hot and humid and beautiful. We were greeted by the son[Bijou] and wife [Susama]of James the bible college president. Bijou spoke very good English, his mother didn't speak any but her sweet spirit and warm smile made me feel right at home.

Although the landscape changed and the language changed from state to state the people and their lives are pretty much the same. They are gracious and loving, hard working and humble. My



Photo: Cheryl, Medical Camp at second elementary school

Kerala family called me "Auntie" and dad "Daddy". These were terms of affection and respect for us. Again much of the work at the Malabar School was a family effort. Involved with our meetings and clinics there were two brothers, two of their sisters, their parents and children. It was like a family reunion and I had only just met them all. We had wonderful fellowship together at the guest house at the Bible School. The entire staff at the school including the cooks fellowshipped with us. Which is as I understand pretty much unheard of their.



Photo: Cheryl teaching women at Family Life Conference

This is not an easy area to preach the Gospel in. There are a lot of Hindu and Muslim communities and they are resistant to evangelism as we know it. Our brothers and sisters in Christ get up every day and trust God for creative ways in which to share His love with these people. They are truly committed and relentless when it comes to their faith in God. I watched them and wondered how easy it would be for me to just stay in my own little world and mind my own business. This gave new meaning to "go into all the world and preach the gospel." I understood that some times all the world is right outside my door.

We did two children's clinics at two different Christian schools. We saw an average of 200 children each clinic. The exciting thing was that many Muslim parents have their children in these schools so they can learn English. They brought their children to the clinic for free medical care. They registered for the clinic, so the plan was to follow up in a few weeks and continue the relationship that was started at the clinic. We praise God for this door of opportunity.

I watched the women as they waited in line 2 to 3 hours with their children. I was intrigued by the Muslim women. They were completely covered in black, including their heads. I will never forget the intensity in their dark brown eyes as they peered through the veil over their face. They seemed to study every move we made. I pray those eyes beheld the love of Jesus in us and will always remember us for that.



Photo: Cheryl speaking at Open Air Common Worship Service

At the Bible School there was a family life conference conducted for pastors and their wives. They were ministered to on a personal and practical level that made a great impact in their lives. I had the privilege of speaking to the women one very hot afternoon. We had a wonderful time of sharing our testimonies and all left being strengthened and encouraged.

I had one day of glorious site seeing while we were there. Dad had a board meeting so I went with my new found family to the mountains. We visited a park and the world's largest teak forest. We stopped by the roadside and bought coconuts still in the green skin; we drank the milk with a straw then cut it open and ate the rest. We shopped some and laughed a lot. It was getting dark as we started the long drive home. We sang our way over the mountainous roads. This reminded me of my child hood riding in the back seat singing hymns with my family. The sweet presence of the Holy Spirit was in the car with us. It was a wonderful time.

After a week and a half it was time to head back to America. I was honored that the whole family rode with us to the airport to see us off. I miss them very much. I am honored to have met them and be a part of their work for our Lord and

Savior. I am equally honored to serve our Lord with you all. Thank you again for your prayers and support.

I would like to take a minute and talk about my dad. Yes I am probably going to sound like I am bragging. He is 71 years old this month. In India I could barely keep up with him. He preached like he always does, with all his heart and soul. I am so proud of him and it was an honor to be with him on the mission field. I didn't realize how much Focus Ministries is responsible for until I saw it with my own eyes. Everywhere I turned there was a building, vehicle, well, or many other things that Focus had supplied. Again my dad may go but it is you that help send him and make it all possible.

Also, I am thankful to my wonderful husband and mother for holding down the fort at home and caring for our children. Thanks for taking the time to let me share with you. Talk to you soon.

Love and Prayers,
Cheryl

UKRAINE 2006

I leave to the Ukraine on April 20th. Perhaps you will have this newsletter before I return. I will be sharing on this trip in the June newsletter. Please pray for us!

Donna and I are so deeply grateful for all your prayers and assistance (especially during my time off during December and January for the foot surgery) and for all your help as we continue to serve missionaries and national ministers throughout the world.

Your Partners in Harvest,

Harley and Donna Fiddler



Partners in Harvest