

# The Preston's December 09 Newsletter

On November 14 in India it is Children's Day so we got involved in a Rounders' competition in the 3 schools we work with. It was a joy to give out prizes to them on this special day.



Before setting out for the New Life Fellowship (NLF) in Ludhiana in the Punjab we were delighted to receive an invitation to come and visit the NLF in Mumbai. We managed to alter our travel arrangements to take in both visits back on back.

What a good experience it was! - Sunday mornings where we shared about entering into rest; evenings to teach about leadership; cell groups to encourage women; the showing of the DVD "How great is our God" to about 100 medical and dental students. The DVD worked well on my laptop but refused to perform two hours later. Only after some prayer did the laptop and DVD come into line. No wonder - the response of the students to the DVD was very moving!



Every day we were invited to have a meal with a different leader and his wife and talk and pray about issues that mattered to them. Some of these talks went on to midnight. Altogether it was a wonderful time of deepening relationships with this NLF church.

We had a busy time in the NLF Bible School near Pune, 2 hours drive from Mumbai. It was billed as 6 sessions a day for three days and I, David, wondered whether I knew enough to last the three!



The talks were all to be on relationships – God, man, each other etc. I suggested to the leaders that 18 talks on relationship might cause the problems not heal them but I need not have worried. Janet & I rarely managed more than three or four talks in the one day and took the opportunity to get alongside the students at meal times. This opened the way for counsel and ministry in the evenings.



We were in Mumbai for the next 4 days and spoke at Church services, to groups of cell leaders and with those overall responsible for children's work and district care. It was so encouraging to see God expanding, establishing and using His church in Mumbai. The city wide church is taking to the streets for a celebration on Sunday 13 December. What a witness!

We made time to visit the work of The New India Church of God – visiting the rubbish dumps where people lived and where the church had a mobile classroom in a bus – going to where the street children were and providing them with food, and schooling.



No less impressive was the work of Imcare – where amongst other programmes there was a well thought out year long training provided for AIDS workers. Those in charge were well versed in the provision available from hospitals and police and used their knowledge to gain treatment and care for the destitute and dying they had encountered. The trained workers took their knowledge back to their churches and have involved others in a compassionate ministry.

Back in Kethnakonda we presented the final session of our Christian Course to the intermediate classes and gave them an opportunity to respond. Many, many students took the first step in saying yes to Jesus. We distribute New Testaments to them this week

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We are delighted now that we have returned to be able to purchase a vehicle for our team coming out in January. Thank you for your support.

We are coming home on 23rd Dec for Christmas very happy that God has fulfilled his word to us concerning 'deepening relationships'.

We fly back to India on the 12<sup>th</sup> January with a new team. Not too late yet for some others to join us!

We wish you all a very happy Christmas and much joy in the New.

### Praise

- Students who have made a commitment to Christ
- Time in Ludhiana with the church and medical students
- Ministry in NLF Training School
- Signs of life & vibrancy in Mumbai churches
- Safety in all our travels

### Prayer

- More recruits
- Political disturbances in Hyderabad over the possible division of Andhra Pradesh
- For the new Christians as many return to idol worshipping homes for Xmas
- Rachel & Hannah coming out in January
- Christmas celebrations for all UCCI children (2000) on 22 Dec in the campus