



April 2009

"And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come." Matthew 24:14

"...no eye has seen nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love Him." I Cor. 2:9

Hello my friends!

Jesus has done *so much* for us on the cross and life is an adventure waiting to be revealed as we walk through each day with Him! **My trip to India and Indonesia was a planned event from heaven's perspective and words can't fully describe all that He allowed us to be a part of!** Ephesians 3:20-21 says, "Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or even imagine, to Him be the glory both now and forever!" All praise and glory goes to our resurrected Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! He alone is able and He alone has done immeasurably MORE!

Village Ministry

Our journey began with ministry to the villages of NE India in the state of Tripura. Visiting these villages was no small task with hours of winding roads, crazy traffic and obstacles along the way but it was awesome to witness firsthand the work being done through the church planters who minister tirelessly in this region of the world. Prior to this, pastors and leaders would travel to the city to attend our conferences. **This time we were able to see what they do in the context in which they live and in one village we were the first white people to ever visit.** Our team, Dan Smythe, Sindhu Pani and I (all GTN staff, pictured to the right), traveled to four villages and trained over 300 pastors, leaders and church members! It was a life changing experience for us and an incredible privilege!



In the village of Khuh Cheng we ordained six pastors to the ministry with a special commissioning service. We prayed and laid hands on them like Paul did for Timothy when he said, "*...Fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.*" (I Timothy 1:6) Every pastor was deeply touched but one man in particular began to cry and shake as the Holy Spirit ministered to him powerfully. It was a moving experience to watch God reach down and touch these special men as they were set apart for His service.

Kolkata Ministry

Our team flew back to Kolkata where we were joined by our friends Tom and Vicki Gender (pictured below with Pastor Lamuel). They flew in from Arizona to minister with us in the city. We journeyed to a suburb called Authpur for a church service with seventy-five people packed into a building ten by forty feet long. After the service, people lined up for us to pray for them. **We were incredibly blessed to find out later that many who eagerly desired prayer were Hindus from the village!** The Holy Spirit drew them to us for prayer and we know we can trust Him for the results! It was an exciting day for us!



The main event of our Kolkata ministry was a conference with close to 200 pastors and leaders who gathered for training and encouragement. **At the end of our second day we were shown a DVD of the horrible persecution taking place in the state of Orissa. I was in shock watching Christians being burned out of their homes, their possessions being thrown out of windows and police standing by watching because the mobs were too large to control.** I've never had such a wide range of emotion at once. After almost an hour of watching these film clips that were secretly recorded on cell phones, we were brought to our knees in prayer. I was asked to pray for the pastors from Orissa who were with us. They are an inspiration to me as they stand firm in their faith. Please pray for them and for the people in their churches who have been forced to live in the jungle to escape persecution. Many have lost their homes and businesses; some have lost their lives.

On our last conference day in Kolkata, we concluded with a graduation ceremony for twenty students who completed a two year course preparing them for ministry.



Most of the graduates were from the Birhor people of Western Orissa. Their story is truly amazing! **Just twenty short years ago these people who are known as "the monkey people", were living in trees in the jungle.** Pastor Lamuel (Sindhu's brother-in-law) had a great burden to reach them with the love of Jesus. Fifteen years ago he went to this remote people group with the gospel and later partnered with a church in the US to expand the ministry. It was such

a blessing for me to see the transformation in these men and women! They are excited and prepared to take the gospel of Jesus Christ back to their people in the jungle. They are His ambassadors and will be greatly used to reach many for His Kingdom!

Indonesia Ministry

Sindhu and I continued on to Yogyakarta, Indonesia for the third week of our trip. Indonesia has over 15,000 islands, with 237 million people and 86% of them are Muslim. It was wonderful to return and see many familiar faces. Our teaching time was rich with a smaller group of about seventy pastors and Bible students. This gave us a great opportunity for interaction as they grappled with the truths of scripture and its practical implementation.



Pastor Andrew Hendro (pictured to the left of Sindhu and me) is our main contact and host for Indonesia. I introduced you to him last year. He is a young man of great vision and has founded **The International Blessing Ministry**. It supports a home for boys, a Bible college, modern English classes, and many other ministries. I believe that under Pastor Andrew's leadership God is positioning these people to be a mighty force for the kingdom of

God throughout SE Asia and ultimately the world! I spoke at IBM Ministry's Second Anniversary Celebration on our final evening in Yogyakarta. They had incredible worship, a violinist, a children's choir and we concluded with a powerful prayer time. I felt the power and presence of God as we prayed for many who came forward to reignite their passion for the lost. It was truly a supernatural experience where heaven invaded earth!

We were extremely blessed by all of you who interceded and fasted on our behalf. I want you to know that your prayers were not only heard by our heavenly Father but they were powerfully answered! We saw the fruit that came from your prayers and it *is* fruit that *will* last. Heaven will be glorious! As I worshipped with close to 1,000 believers at a church in Kolkata, I lifted my hands toward heaven and began to cry. We were singing in English, "We want to see Jesus lifted up! The moment was electric as I worshiped with these special Indian believers knowing that you were praying in the U.S. for this very moment. May God bless you for boldly approaching the throne of grace on behalf of the nations!

Ugandan Visitors

In a few weeks Kathy and I will have the privilege of hosting four visitors from Uganda, Africa. Pastor Stephen Senfuma, his wife Esther, Pastor Michael Lutalo and Pastor John Mugabi will be with us from April 30 through May 6th. It will be Pastor and Mrs. Senfuma's first visit to the United States. We are praying this will be a rich experience for our friends. If you know of a church or small group who would like to hear them speak, please let us know.

Future Ministry

The next couple of months will be busy as I plan and prepare for upcoming trips. In June, I will be partnering with Global Advance for two pastor's conferences in Nakuru and Gitaru Kenya. This will be followed by a three country journey to Cambodia, Vietnam and Thailand in the fall. Kathy will be joining me in Cambodia for a women's conference. Please pray with us for God's provision as we raise funds to conduct each of these conferences. I still need to raise \$8,000 for the conference expenses in Kenya.

God continues to fuel the fire in my heart for training and equipping pastors and leaders around the world. The need is great and the time short.

"When He (Jesus) saw the crowds, He had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send our laborers into His harvest.'" Matthew 9:36-38

My prayer for each of us is that we would have "the heart of Jesus" for the world around us and that we would not only pray for those to be sent but would ask the Lord, "What would you have me do?"

Lifting up the Name of Jesus for the Glory of God!

Joel Madson
Vice President
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P.S. GTN is now a proud member of ECFA, The Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.



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