

goodnews from the goodmans

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Who are these people and why in the world do they want to be in our picture??

Nancy and I were getting our picture taken in front of the Himalayan mountains and suddenly these people just jumped into the picture. Who are they? I have no idea (except one is a staff member who decided to join the fun). But similarly, if I had given an invitation to accept Jesus as Savior I would have had a lot more in the picture. You see the challenge in India is not getting people to “accept Christ.” The challenge is to stay with them and disciple them so that their “decision” actually becomes a meaningful one and that they allow Christ to transform them into His image.

That’s why Entrust concentrates on raising up leaders who are themselves being transformed into the image of Christ and have the tools and training to lead others to become obedient followers of Christ. Thanks for making it possible!!

We had heard about the Tea Garden Churches of Darjeeling.

Now we found ourselves packed into two vans making this tortuous journey and wondering if it might be our last. One staff member described it this way.

That part of the journey was everything you could expect in a trek up the Himalayas, and much more than any of us could have imagined. Let us just say that a lot of prayers went up from both vans! Not only was oncoming traffic a challenge, when you could pass them, and when you couldn't then backing down the road trying to avoid buildings, bicycles, stone barriers placed (sometimes) along the edge to hopefully prevent cars plunging hundreds of feet down the cliff, pedestrians, parked vehicles, dogs, sewer trenches... and all of this in the pitch dark! The shops were so close to the edge that you could have done your shopping from your car, just reaching out to grab whatever was needed. And driving by the houses, we could (well, as much as darkness allowed) see into kitchens and living rooms... a whole new meaning to drive throughs! (Thanks to Carol Crom, Entrust Communications)

The next day we could see that we had been passing by tea plantations. It reminded me of what southern plantations may have looked like at one time. Of course, these people were not slaves, but they live on the edge of the Indian tea gardens of northern India where they are also employed. Their employer provides

housing along with a Hindu temple and often a Christian church. While his wife goes out every day to pick the bright green “new growth” tea leaves that end up in tea cups all over the world, the tea garden church pastor cares for the rest of the workers and their families. His preparation for this role . . . a seminar or two and sermons recycled from westerners who came with their “one and done ministry.”

“There are plenty of people who come in to minister, but no one comes back to train us in any systematic way.” That is the need we consistently heard . . . not teachers whose idea of training is riding their favorite western hobby horse only to return home with a new collection of stories to add to the ones gathered when they did the same thing in Africa or China.

Yes, there are missions that are already in India so why would Entrust go there?

Because there is a great need for ministries who come in and listen, then partner with indigenous church leaders to develop training that meets the specific need of . . . tea garden pastors, for example. The reason this is not often done is that it is time consuming and demanding. It is much easier to come in with a one-size-fits-all approach and just translate the same materials used in the US.

You will hear fantastic numbers coming out of India. It is easy for a westerner to gather a large group, preach and see many come to Christ. The tragedy is that most of these decisions will be the seed that springs up and then is withered by the sun (*Continues-back page*)

A few family details and reflections - FROM NANCY

This has been a tremendously busy season – our travel schedule in September – November took us to Phoenix, Tennessee, Dallas, India, Turkey, back to Phoenix, then four days of Board visits and meetings here in Colorado Springs with still one upcoming trip for me next week to Dallas for four days while David catches up at the office.

We are very excited about the opportunities for Entrust! We are meeting and developing relationships for potential partnerships, staff positions, and resourcing our ministries on many levels.

An exciting \$20,000 Match for first time gifts to the General Fund or for our Africa Project (MMD). No, the match does not include gifts to our personal support (see box below), but it is also a great need. Interested? Please call David at 847-971-6362!

India was very fruitful for the 13 staff on this fact finding mission. It is estimated that church growth outstrips the capacity of the seminaries to train Christian leaders in India by a million pastors (something we learned from our study before going— *Breaking Tradition to Accomplish VISION*— Gupta and Lingenfelter. To prepare us to con-

duct focus groups and meetings with area church leaders, we had extensive orientation and workshops. Then our team led Church Leadership Training over a two-day period, dividing the sixty men and women into small groups for more targeted instruction.

We heard *so many stories of how God used suffering or persecution* to transform their lives producing commitment for serving God and man. The cook for the conference owns a hotel, which he closed for three days in order to serve us... wow! Their examples make our “sacrifice” pale by comparison. The 20 women we met with remarked that this was the first time they had ever been given opportunity to have any kind of biblical education. Our team came back inspired and motivated to develop a systematic approach to training these leaders to train others over the next several years.

At an undisclosed location we had a dynamic time for 20 additional Entrust staff - study, worship, prayer and commitment to a serious vision for leaving behind movements of transformation where people experience all the glorious truth we celebrate at this time of Christmas!

We are so grateful for you!

We love hearing about how you are doing and how we can pray for you!

Please pray for us: Historically, a significant amount of our support comes in over the next three weeks and this year is no exception.

We are praying for \$31,000 to come in for our personal budget needs

A Goodman family highlight was Thanksgiving together celebrating Marvin Goodman's 90th birthday with about 20 of his family including three new great-grand-daughters – Olive Goodman and Sophie Goodman with Scarlett Lewis their 2nd cousin! The Psalm that reminds us of Dad, faithful servant who ministered in the Central African Republic for most of his life.

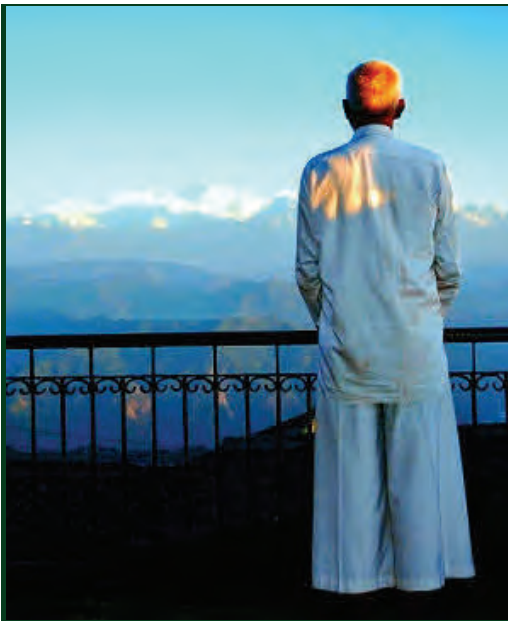
Psalm 92:12

¹² The righteous will flourish like a palm tree,
they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon;

¹³ planted in the house of the LORD,
they will flourish in the courts of our God.

¹⁴ They will still bear fruit in old age,
they will stay fresh and green,

¹⁵ proclaiming, “The LORD is upright;
he is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in him.”



Tea Garden Churches of Darjeeling – cont. (in Jesus parable in Mt. 14). Unless there are trained leaders equipped to nurture and ground those people in the Word of God, little is accomplished. Evangelism alone is not what is needed in India, but trained leaders who can evangelize AND disciple converts till they are transformed into the image of Christ.

Yet unless you listen you don't realize that often the best avenue for evangelism is to engage in holistic ministry that addresses rampant community health problems and similar social needs while demonstrating the love of Christ and winning a grateful hearing in this predominantly Hindu setting.

