

MERCY AID INTERNATIONAL

NEWSLETTER

SERVING IN INDIA, UGANDA AND THAILAND

November 2011

1 John 3:17



INDIA

Deirdre and I have recently returned from India where we spent time leading a conference with 15 local village pastors in the North of the country. At the beginning of 2011 we made a decision to support these pastors for a fixed period of time and prepared strategies with them to plant churches in the many unreached villages of their district. The conference was centred around church planting and so far this year eight new churches have been planted which we are very excited about. We heard encouraging testimonies from some of these pastors, many who have come from strong Hindu backgrounds, and some who were actively involved in persecuting Christians.

While we were there we were involved in the baptisms of a number of new Christians, visited orphans whom we support and who are being cared for in pastor's homes. One pastor has 12 orphans living in his house.

Village life with its rolling hills and tranquil atmosphere is a far cry from the bustling cities of India.

Pastor's conference



Orphans



Our assistance for these orphans includes educational support and contributions towards food and clothing. We met one young man who was brought up as an orphan and is now working as a pastor, seeking to plant a church.

North India has the largest proportion of unreached people groups in the world and our prayer along with the local pastors is that the glory of God will cover this region as the waters cover the sea. (Hab 2:14).

We also visited a number of village churches where we had opportunities for teaching, and prayer for the sick. These Christians are so glad to see visitors and our being there is often encouragement enough for them as many have suffered persecution for their faith. We were advised very recently that one of our pastors has been badly beaten for conducting church meetings and his family have been banned from using the local well to draw water. Please pray for these courageous men & women on the frontiers of Christian ministry.

JUSTICE

Today, millions of lives around the world are in the grip of injustice. They toil in bondage, where their bodies are not their own but that of somebody who owns them and it is the poor who bear the burden of these abuses.

Mercy Aid partners with a Christian human rights agency that secures justice for victims of slavery, sexual exploitation and other forms of violent oppression.

Recent examples of people being freed from injustice have included:

“Men, women and children rescued from a brick kiln in Chennai, India. Sparked by a brother’s desperate plea, the operation brought freedom to nearly 400 forced to work in the kiln – including 23 children, the youngest only 8 years old – and their dependents, either too old and frail or too young and weak to work, but still held captive within the factory’s walls.”

“Six victims freed from a brothel in Siem Reap, Cambodia, with the court sentencing three perpetrators to 10 years in prison.”

Our responsibility for justice is seen in Micah 6:8 “...what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly before your God?”

Village scenes



Baptisms



Unless you try to do something beyond what you have already mastered, you will never grow.

Ronald E. Osborn

INDIA

Our work in India encompasses a range of activities and includes:

- Teaching & preaching
- Educational assistance
- Support for church planting teams
- Drilling of water wells
- Bibles and Christian literature
- Emergency relief in city slums
- Micro finance projects
- Assistance for orphans & Christian schools
- Support for the persecuted church

THAILAND

Our focus in Thailand is mainly directed at educational support for children of poor farming families in the north of the country in the Chiang Rai area.

AFRICA - UGANDA

Our work in Uganda includes:

- Teaching & preaching
- Educational assistance
- Support for Christian schools
- Supporting Child Headed Families
- Micro finance projects

In total our Fund supports over 100 children in these countries.



Neville & Deirdre I'Anson

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*Donations can be deposited at any
branch of the Commonwealth Bank*

Mercy Overseas Aid Fund

A/c No. 06 7105 00900875

The tragedy in life doesn't lie in not reaching your goal. The tragedy lies in having no goal to reach. – *Benjamin Mays*