



# Heart of Compassion Missionary Ministries Newsletter

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## Retracing our Steps in Ethiopia...and Breaking New Ground in India

In the Book of Acts, Apostle Paul made four missionary journeys from Asia to Greece. The purpose of his journeys were to preach the gospel, to make new converts, and to check up on earlier converts and members of the Church. He wanted to make sure that they remained true to the gospel.

As Apostle Paul retraced his steps, we also retraced our steps. Our journey began on 6 March 2012, in Debre Zeyit, Ethiopia, 30 miles south of Addis Ababa, with a young lady named Beletu.



If your recall from previous newsletters, Beletu was the young lady who had no source of income but took on the responsibility of caring for her family. Even though she had no money, she had a desire to become a business owner so that she wouldn't rely on handouts.

After we learned more about her, through your donations, Heart of Compassion Missionary Ministries purchased a three-wheeled taxi. Now, Beletu is in a position to earn an income to help care for her family.

After one year, Beletu went from no income to earning about \$15 a day. Rather than spending all her profit, she sowed one-fourth of what she earned back into our ministry so that we can use the money to help someone else in need.



Now that Beletu receives an income from her business, she faithfully pays her tithes and gives offerings to her church, thereby stopping the devourer from destroying the fruits of her endeavors.

Beletu is now looking to help someone in her church, as we helped her. And with the money she sowed back in our ministry, we are helping someone else to break the cycle of poverty.

The Bible says, *“Whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor”* (Proverbs 22:9, ESV). We should all strive to live by this principle.

## A Stronghold in Gondar

Our journey continues 400 miles north to Gondar, Ethiopia.



In our 2011 newsletter, we told you about the city of Gondar. Of the 305,000 people who live in this city, only .02 percent are born-again Christians. The majority of the people are “Christian” Orthodox. Please note, even though “Christian” is used as a part of their name, people in this religion worship angels and saints, as opposed to worshipping Christ. Adhering to any false teaching will ultimately lead to spiritual death. Jesus said, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.”*

## ...Jesus is the Answer

Even though there is still a spiritual stronghold in Gondar, Ethiopia, thank God change is taking place. In our previous newsletter, we told you about a young man who had been brought up in the “Christian” Orthodox religion but became a born-again Christian after someone told him about Jesus.

The young man that we are referring to is named Tamirat. He is the only born-again Christian in his family. When he first gave his heart to Christ, people called him “Pente,” short for Pentecostal. In Ethiopia, “Pente” has a negative meaning. In fact, people are persecuted for converting from the Orthodox religion to becoming a born-again Christian. For a period of time, Tamirat was harassed by his family and friends for accepting Jesus as his Lord and Savior, but now, they tolerate his decision but still call him “Pente.”



Many people don't know Christ because of false teachings. This has attributed to why there are still over 2 billion lost people in the world. In the Bible,

Jesus said, to His disciples, “...*The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest*” (Matthew 9:37-38). There are so few *willing* laborers compared to the mission at hand. If we are called by God to go on the foreign mission field, we must be obedient and go.

## Hope in Gondar

During the course of our journey, we were introduced to Tamirat's pastor; Pastor Yemane.

Pastor Yemane is the pastor of Christian's Temple Church in Gondar, Ethiopia. Even though born-again Christians are outnumbered 150 to 1 in Gondar, they're not giving up!



As we spoke with Pastor Yemane, we learned that city leaders, all Orthodox, recently posted an order on their church door that prohibited them from holding Sunday services in an area that was predominately Orthodox.

After being displaced to another location, God gave Pastor Yemane, a vision to build a 2000 seat church. He put the vision in writing and submitted the plans to city officials but was turned down. That didn't deter Pastor Yemane, he took his plea to a higher level; God.

Just recently, Pastor Yemane was given the approval, by a top governmental official, to build his church in a strategic location that is more accessible to people throughout the city. Pastor Yemane said, “It was orchestrated by God.” In the meantime, the church is renting the upper floor of a bar room to conduct Sunday services.

For God's plan to be fulfilled, it's going to take some willing and obedient people to help them raise the funds to complete the construction of this church building. Please help by sowing a financial seed.

## Breaking New Ground in Andhra Pradesh, India

As the Apostle Paul heard the man from Macedonia cry out, “Come over and help us,” we heard that same cry from India. Our journey continues in Andhra Pradesh, India.



India is a country of spirituality, philosophy, and also, a land in which people worship many different gods.

**H**induism is the most dominant religion in India. Currently, there are over 900 million people who practice this religion, which represents about 84 percent of the population. Hindus are polytheistic; they believe in and worship more than one god.

For example, Hanuman is one of the most easily recognizable Hindu gods of India. Although we have heard other names given to this god, there are thousands of temples devoted to Hanuman that are scattered throughout the country. He is the Hindu god known for courage, strength and devotion. Followers pray to Hanuman to remove sufferings and also to fulfill wishes. The picture below is a statue of Hanuman.



Again, this is just one of the many gods that people of the Hindu religion worship. As you can imagine, there are millions of people in this country relying on the beliefs and hopes of *other* gods...and we wonder why the fulfillment that many people are looking for has not materialized and never will.

**I**slam is the second largest religion in India, which represents 12% of the total population. As born-again believers, we must continue to

preach the gospel so that they too will have an opportunity to know the True and Living God.

**C**hristianity is one of the smallest religious groups in India, covering 2.5% of the population. And with over 900 million Hindus and Muslims who don't know the True



and Living God, Christians must work together so that everyone will have the opportunity to hear the gospel.

### **Believing God for India**

The Bible says, *“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim release to the captives, recovering of sight to the blind, to deliver those who are crushed”* (Luke 4:18).

**W**hile in India, our journey led us to an indigenous ministry in the state of Andhra Pradesh that is directed by a man and woman who are truly led by the Lord. We thank them for giving us the opportunity to preach, teach and pray for people in cities, towns and villages in areas that they also minister. We were blessed as we traveled from village to village helping children, praying for the sick and setting the captives free! From our experiences, we know that God's Word works.

### **Helping Children with Special Needs**

**W**hile serving with their ministry, we visited a home, which is one of several homes, established to care for abandoned children with special needs.



The little girl that I am holding suffers from a type of dwarfism that placed her under their ministry care. Although she is as small as a 1 year old, she is actually 3 years old. Other medical issues requires her to have special care. We thank God for these types of ministries that have taken a step toward helping abandon children. Please pray for ministries such as this so that God will intervene in helping special needs children everywhere.

### **Praying for the Sick**



### **Setting Captives Free**



## A New Friendship in the Tribal Villages of India

On the final leg of our journey, which ended 11 April 2012, we met Pastor M., who works in the state of Andhra Pradesh. We refer to him as Pastor M. because we do not want to reveal his true identity in order to protect him from persecution by Hindu or Muslim extremists. Currently, he is the director of an indigenous ministry that we have started a new work with in India. Pastor M's ministry is based on Mark 16:15 and Matthew 28:18-20; to preach and teach the gospel.



The ministry that he directs is centered around reaching people in tribal villages who have never heard the gospel and also caring for displaced children. Pastor M. stated, "There are a lot of people living in the tribal villages who are deeply rooted in old traditions, customs and superstitions beliefs. That's why we must reach out to them."



The reason why we believe God placed it on our heart to work with this ministry is because they are truly making a difference in reaching the lost in remote areas of Andhra Pradesh, India. Please keep them in your prayers.

## Want to Serve?

Do you want to make a difference in someone's life? Join us on one of our mission trips to India or Ethiopia. Take part in helping the poor, feeding the hungry, praying for the sick, healing the brokenhearted, or just being a blessing to someone by giving God's love. If you have a desire to serve with us on a short-term mission, please pray about it. We would love for you to take part with us in *Reaching People and Touching Lives Around the World*. For more information, please email us at: [hocmm@hotmail.com](mailto:hocmm@hotmail.com).

## Preaching the Gospel



## Praying for the Elderly



## Feeding the Children



## Thank You

As you continue to sow into our ministry, we will continue to sow into God's people; financially and spiritually through Christ Jesus. We love what God has commissioned us to do and we will not stop until God's work is completed. We are praying that God will send us on a return mission to India and Ethiopia in the first or second quarter of 2013. The exact date has yet to be determined. Please pray to find out whether God is calling you to come serve with us on the foreign mission field. Also, please pray for the people living in the country of Moldova.

## Reaching People and Touching Lives Around the World

*"But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them..."*

(Matthew 9:36)

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