



**WHITE  
FIELDS**



Overseas Evangelism & World Ministries  
P.O. Box 1089 Joplin, Mo 64802-1089

Reggie's Phone— 417-782-7672  
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Supported by Christian Churches and Churches of Christ

Reggie Thomas~ Founder/Director

**March 1, 2009**

**India ~A Field "Ripe For The Harvest  
"And The Lord Added To The Church Daily"  
Acts 2:47**

January 22, 2009, 11 White Fields Overseas Evangelists departed the USA bound for the second largest nation in the world--- INDIA . The population of India now is poised to surpass that of China . 1 out of every 7 persons on the face of the earth is an Indian. Our team faced a population of idol worshipping Hindus. 82% of the population of India worships idols. You will see the idol gods everywhere----statues of monkeys, elephants, lions, tigers, and other animals. Statues of naked men and women—all classified as gods. Everywhere you will see people bowing to these idols. It is a tremendous challenge to preach the Gospel in a society of idol worshippers. They are very religious but they believe in a multiplicity of gods (33,000,000). Hindus believe that the sun, moon, stars, and all animals and insects are gods. They also believe in re-incarnation—so don't step on a fly or bug because that may be you Grandmother!!!!

Our 11 member Evangelistic team in India are pictured around this page : Preaching evangelists Reggie Thomas, Doug Willis, Blythe Robinson, Ron Hoyer, Larry Woods, Barry Kermeen ; Jeff Badgero. Gary Mershon, & Eathan McDonald and song evangelists Barbara Barger, and Lydia Abbott

Each evangelist preached 3 meetings each day so that means 27 meetings per day. We have constructed 5 church buildings during 2008 and dedicated these buildings in connection with the evangelistic meetings.

In addition to the teaching, visiting, preaching, baptizing, and counseling the team members traveled over very dangerous roads to reach the villages. We praise God for a safe journey to and from India and we thank God for the power of His Gospel. Romans 1:16.



**AT HOME----PRAISE GOD. Our 11 member team that participated in the daily preaching and witnessing report 3,248 souls accepted Jesus and were baptized during the Jan. 23-Feb.6 crusade meetings. ALL GLORY TO GOD.**



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*Someone has already made this observation: "You were one evangelist short of the 12 who preached on the Day of Pentecost. God blessed with over 3000 baptisms that one day. It took your team 14 days to baptize 3000."*

*Now that the evangelistic campaign has been concluded the follow-up work has begun. Our Indian White Fields Evangelists are now going back to every village visiting each village where we conducted the meetings. Each convert is being visited and taught concerning faithfulness in prayer, daily Bible study, and regular Lord's Day worship which of course includes the Lord's Supper.; Pray for all our native team members that they will be successful in teaching each convert to observe all things that Jesus commanded. Matt 28:18-20.*

**With Lydia Abbott In India**



(Lydia Abbott is a song evangelist from Cicero, Indiana. This was her first overseas trip and her first time to travel with White Fields. These are her observations)

let me just start by saying that I am so grateful to have this opportunity to be here. I NEVER thought I would be serving God in INDIA ! God is so good!

We arrived very early this morning at 1:30am. We went through customs at the airport and everyone said that this is the fastest they have ever come through the India Airport . After we got our bags, we continued outside the airport where hundreds of people were waiting for people to arrive. There were a lot of people holding

up signs that said someone's name and family and relatives and kids waiting for their loved ones to return to them. There were about ten Indian preachers and assistants waiting for us. We were greeted with hand shakes and they also bow when they meet you. They greeted me by putting a lay of flowers around my neck. It was beautiful and very well made. They are huge! Nothing like the ones in Hawaii .

We got to our Hotel last night at about 3:30am. We paid for our rooms and by the time we got to sleep it was 4:30. I shared a room with Reggie's sister who is 76. We both couldn't sleep past 7am so we got up and got ready and talked before going downstairs to meet the preachers and others who were waiting in the lobby. We are going to the God's Little Angels orphanage today and then onto our destination which is about 3 hours away . I have met several Indian preachers already and they are excited that we are here. I am so excited.

Yesterday (Sunday) was our first full day out on the mission field. It was just Reggie and I and 4-6 Indian Preachers and co-workers who travel with us daily. I have finally learned their names and they are having a lot of fun TRYING to teach me Please and thank you and some other words. It is VERY HARD! They talk about me a lot in their own language and when I ask them what they are saying they jokingly tell me that it's none of my business. ha-ha. But, when I started running on in Spanish to them then they told me they understood how I felt. ha-ha



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## With Lydia Abbott In India

We left from the hotel at 10:30am and drove to the first village that we were going to minister to. (about an hour) We never know where we are going or what to expect until we get there and then they tell us what to do. When we are in the jeep type vehicle it feels like we are riding a horse because it is SOOOO bumpy and at the end of the day it feels like we went to the gym and worked out all day. The first town we went to was a really poor village and they didn't have a church yet. The Indian preacher gathered as many people from the village that would come and then we met at their tiny little school house outside on the porch.

There were about 60 people. What they do first is the Indian Preacher leads them in singing and then they talk to them and tell them that Reggie and I have come from America to tell them some news. When they announce us they say "Brother Reggie" and Sister Lydia" and they all clap and cheer and then Reggie and I have to put our hands together like we are praying and put them up to our face and do a little bow while sitting. That is how they greet or say thank you. They announce us separately though. After they do the announcing they ask me to sing. Before I sing, I have one of the Indian Preachers translate what I am going to sing about. Not the whole song but just the idea of the song and the complete meaning. I can usually do this in just a few short sentences. After I sing, Brother Reggie starts preaching. He does such a good job and really keeps their attention by moving around a bit and making his voice louder and then softer. He always tells a story to keep them wondering and then at the end he tells of God's love for them and the gospel story. It is such an awesome thing to see their faces and see how interested they are in this strange thing they are hearing for the first time.

After the sermon, he asked how many people believe that what he has been preaching from the Bible is true and they almost all raise their hands. He then proceeds to ask if they believe that Jesus really did die on the cross for their sins and he asks if they know that they are sinners and need a savior. They raise their hands in excitement. There are always a couple people who are not interested or walk away but for the most part they are just so happy that we have come from so far away just to talk to them. Reggie then leads them in a prayer saying that they believe that Jesus died for them and that they want Him as Lord of their life. He then tells them of the importance of baptism and asks them follow him to the nearest ocean or river to be baptized. The first village was less than two mile from the beach so it was not that bad to walk. It felt like it was 5 miles though because of the sand and the sun was so hot. The Indian preachers began to baptize them one by one. And then they would come up to Reggie and me and shake our hands and we would give them each a bible. Another Indian Preacher would ask them their full name so that we could keep a record of them. Each village that we go to and convert people the Indian Preachers nominate one of themselves to that village so there can be a church. It is really neat how they do that.

The next village we went to was about the same except there were a few more people and the beach was only about half a mile or so. This was the village that all the kids but more the girls were all over me. As was walking behind Reggie to the beach to baptize people the little girls were walking right beside and all around me and they were staring at me the whole time we were walking. Finally, I felt like they wanted



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to hold my hands so I reached down and took a hold of one little girl's hand. Wow was that an invitation because after that they all swarmed me because they all wanted to hold my hand or my arms or any part of me just so they could say they touched me. It was so cute. Even the older teenage girl were walking beside me and laughing. I knew they were talking about me and when they tried to ask me questions I didn't know what to say so I said "ok". After I said that they would laugh and mock me by saying "ok" "ok" to each other and laughing. It was quite funny.

There were about 15 little girls all around me while we watched the baptisms and they would NOT let go of my hands or let me walk away. The teenage girls I could tell

were not as warm to me as the little girls. They would talk about me and laugh but that all changed after something happened. They were about done with the baptisms and even the girls went and got baptized. BUT, there was one girl probably about my age who was so shy. I could tell she wanted to go and get baptized but she was too scared to have them baptize her. All of her sisters and friends were pushing and pulling her but she was getting sad because she didn't want to go alone. So, I thought maybe if I helped her that she might go. I went over to her and put my hand on her shoulder and looked at her and shook my hand in a loving manner. She looked at me with a shy smile and I knew that I would have to walk into the water with her or she would not go. SO, I took her hand and walked into the water with her about up to my knees and then I motioned to the Indian Preacher to take her from me. She went willingly after that. I waited for her to be baptized and then I gave her a hug and walked her back onto shore to greet Reggie and get a Bible. After that, ALL the ladies and teenage girls totally swarmed me and were talking to me and stroking my hair and my arms. It was so neat. I then passed out the candy and trinkets that I had for the kids but it turned out that all the adults really wanted one too so thanks God I had enough. The mothers would come with their babies or toddlers in their arms and want me to touch them and give them something. After that the Indian preacher told me to walk fast on up ahead because they would not let me leave.

This village already had a church because last year a couple of people from America that went with Reggie raised money to have them build it so it was very new and they wanted Reggie to dedicate it before they used it. It had a ribbon across the door and the people all gathered around the church and me and Reggie. Reggie offered a prayer to bless the church and to make it grow. He then cut the ribbon and was the first to walk in along with all the people that were outside. It was jammed packed. It is a very small building about the size of my room. We did the same thing that we have done in the other villages. The people sang and then I sang and Reggie preached. It was dark by then so the Indian Preachers were going to go back there in the morning to baptize the people who wanted to be Christians.

Thank you so much for your love, support and prayers, In His service, Lydia



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## Evangelist Doug Willis Writes From India

### WHITE FIELDS IN INDIA

Hundreds of souls are responding to the gospel in India as several White Field's evangelistic teams are again witnessing a great harvest of souls for Christ as they spread out into the villages of Northern Tamil Nadu and Southern Andhra Pradesh. Doug plans to conduct three preacher's and elders seminars, speak at a convention, attend John Samuel's daughter's wedding, lecture at Bible Colleges and preach in the villages.

**Eathan McDonald** from the Wollongbar Church is again joining Doug and plans to travel on with him to Germany and the USA, before returning back home on 4 March.

**Gary Mershon** a student with CEF plans to join Doug in Chennai for first-hand evangelistic preaching experience and ministry opportunities.

### A THRILLING TESTIMONY

Eathan (16 years old) has worked hard and saved for his fare, but due to recent increases, when it came time to 'pay up' he was still \$700 short. His father sent an email to a few relatives and friends and asked for prayer. One relative responded saying that they had received funds from a couple who had been disillusioned by the trends in present day churches and had set aside their normal offering which they were forwarding to them to be dispersed wherever they felt it could be best used. The relative forwarded the money on to Eathan and the amount that was given was \$700.

### MUSLIMS and OTHERS CONVERT to CHRIST - DESPITE PERSECUTION

**Ayo Bamidele**, our Central African evangelist and co-worker has sent pages of reports from local newspapers telling of persecution and suffering in Northern Nigeria and surrounding nations in recent times:

**From Niger:** 12 million (one in every three) suffering from effects of starvation. Two million have already died from the two year drought

**From Niamey:** 100 people die each week

**From Maradi:** 25-30 die each day. Life expectancy in the refugee camps is two years

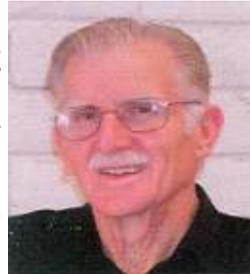
**From Zinder:** 34 full time grave diggers are employed to bury the dead

**From Gazoua:** Home for 40,000 refugees. Their daily ration is one cup of milk and a fortified biscuit

**Ayo** reports that everywhere he goes preaching the gospel, he tries to set up Orphanages for the children. He states that over 100 souls were baptized during January 2007 in Cameroon; 87 in Nigeria during February; 680 in Niger during March; 142 in Mali during April. This is typical of his report up till October, at which time his funds ran out. You may recall an earlier report from us that advised that Ayo had been hospitalized after an attack by militant Muslims. They also set his car on fire. We **urgently want to send him more travel funds**, but are short of the \$5,000 needed to provide him with another car. Ayo has printed 4,000 copies of an excellent tract on 'How to become a Christian and establish a New Testament church'. **This mightily used African evangelist needs our help.**

### THE LORD'S CHURCH PLANTED AMONG LEPERS

**Ayo** also reported that he had previously visited a camp in Ono State which housed 1,000 lepers, mostly beggars. He led 153 to Christ, baptizing them in the river and has established a New Testament church, which breaks bread each Lord's Day. **May the Lord be greatly magnified.** He distributed tracts, but had no funds left to provide them with even one Bible.



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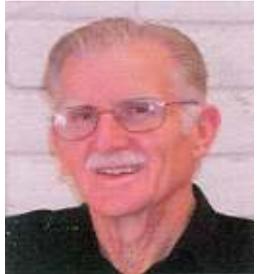
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## Another Pentecost In India by Barbara Barger



We praise God, our Heavenly Father and His precious Son Jesus for the 3,248 people who surrendered their lives to Jesus and were baptized into Him for the forgiveness of their sins and received the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Ooty is one of the most beautiful places I have ever seen. After arriving in Chennai, India, Ron Hoyer & I took another hour & half flight and then 3 and half hours taxi drive up...Up...UP the mountain to Ooty.

The road was 2 lane with such small, close hair pin curves that buses and trucks could not make turns side by side. Every few feet

there were signs, "Do not overtake on curves" or "Accident prone zone, slow down", but these signs were ignored by our driver & every other driver! God performed miracle after miracle of sparing us from an accident. He calmed my nerves and blood pressure and I was able to gaze upon God's creation...absolutely spectacular! The mountain sides are covered with tea, tress, bushes, carrots growing with their bright green curly tops, potatoes and other vegetables are abundant. The mountain sides are terraced and it is all done by hand.

Finally, about 9,000-10,000 feet above sea level, we arrived in Ooty. The tribal people who live in Ooty are the Toda tribe. They are very backward and live up in the mountains. They usually do not allow the children to go to school past 4th grade because they do not want them to be corrupted by outside influences. Also they do not want to lose their unique identity, customs, & beliefs.

The Toda Tribe believes in one God who is the Creator of the universe, but they do not know Jesus. They have no images that they bow & worship. The temple is a lot like the little houses they live in. They resemble the hogans in Arizona & New Mexico, but are not round. The temple is off limits to everyone. Behind the temple is a pillar about 5-6 feet tall. This represents God, although they do not bow down to it. Only the priest is allowed to go in the temple.

There were several large boulders behind the temple. When a young man wants to get married he must be able to lift that huge rock & throw it. Then he is a man. Believe me, the boulders are not light weight.

The men of the tribe are VERY resistant to us coming, or to any white person who would try and change their women. So there were some women who were very afraid to come to our meetings. Some came anyway. One day after a long drive up the mountain and then walking part way, we came to a beautiful mountain top, all covered with grass. It reminded me of the mountain where Jesus taught the Sermon on the Mount. We sat and waited awhile and then here came the women and children. It really was one of my favorite times.



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there were signs, "Do not overtake on curves" or "Accident prone zone, slow down", but these signs were ignored by our driver & every other driver! God performed miracle after miracle of sparing us from an accident. He calmed my nerves and blood pressure and I was able to gaze upon God's creation...absolutely spectacular! The mountain sides are covered with tea, tress, bushes, carrots growing with their bright green curly tops, potatoes and other vegetables are abundant. The mountain sides are terraced and it is all done by hand.

Finally, about 9,000-10,000 feet above sea level, we arrived in Ooty. The tribal people who live in Ooty are the Toda tribe. They are very backward and live up in the mountains. They usually do not allow the children to go to school past 4th grade because they do not want them to be corrupted by outside influences. Also they do not want to lose their unique identity, customs, & beliefs.

The Toda Tribe believes in one God who is the Creator of the universe, but they do not know Jesus. They have no images that they bow & worship. The temple is a lot like the little houses they live in. They resemble the hogans in Arizona & New Mexico, but are not round. The temple is off limits to everyone. Behind the temple is a pillar about 5-6 feet tall. This represents God, although they do not bow down to it. Only the priest is allowed to go in the temple.

There were several large boulders behind the temple. When a young man wants to get married he must be able to lift that huge rock & throw it. Then he is a man. Believe me, the boulders are not light weight.

The men of the tribe are VERY resistant to us coming, or to any white person who would try and change their women. So there were some women who were very afraid to come to our meetings. Some came anyway. One day after a long drive up the mountain and then walking part way, we came to a beautiful mountain top, all covered with grass. It reminded me of the mountain where Jesus taught the Sermon on the Mount. We sat and waited awhile and then here came the women and children. It really was one of my favorite times.



## Another Pentecost In India by Barbara Barger

Two of the Toda men have become the preacher/ ministers of that church. It is in a small town/village up one mountain road. They have a nice building where they meet and we were there on Sunday. There were probably 30-40 people



Not only have the Toda tribal people threatened Ezra & William, but so have the Muslim and Buddhists. I don't think the Hindus have been against us coming.

One day Ezra wanted us to go visit his Aunt and Uncle. They were not Christians. For 4 years Ezra has been teaching them. This year they finally said YES to Jesus! They were afraid of the authorities, however, so Ezra went back the next weekend to baptize them. Also, the Uncle was very sick and had to wait another week before he could get his body wet. ARM has donated a portable baptistery to Ooty and it is stored at their home.

There were 24 people who accepted the Lord in Ooty.

The second week I worked with a different preacher in a different area. We were with Paul Rathnam in Pichutur. It was about 2 hours from Chennai. Paul invited us to stay at his house which turned out to be a real blessing. Paul and his wife have 3 sons, 2 of which live with them, plus a lovely daughter in law. They were very gracious and were constantly asking if we wanted anything. The first day we went to the orphanage that they maintain. There were 42 little girls all dressed nicely & clean. They sang for us and put on a beautiful folk dance.

During the day we visited many of the preachers and viewed their church buildings. At night we held two gospel meetings. There were 61 people baptized into Christ during the meetings in and around Pichutur! Praise the Lord!

The last day we were in India, we went to John & Jessie Samuel's daughter, Sheeba's, wedding. It was a gala event with lots of eating, singing, flowers and we had a great time! I have known Sheeba since she was a little girl. She is stunningly beautiful and her groom was very handsome. Sheeba is a RN and her husband is in some kind of technology work. They will have a strong Christian home.

This was one of the best trips I've ever had to India!



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## Testimony From Pichatur Area of India



Greetings in the beloved name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Thank you for sending the WHITE FIELDS missionaries to Pichatur area. With Bro. Barry Kerman we have visited 8 villages and some other congregations and won 71 SOULS and with Sis. Barbara Barger and Bro. Ronnie Hoyer we have visited 12 villages and won 61 souls in this area. There are totally 132 souls were baptized and added into the churches. We are very much thankful to your kind support.

I am sending some of the photos of the visit details of brothers and sister. I am thanking you whole heartedly for remembering us. Please pray for Gospel service, Medical service and Girls home here in this area.

We are praying for you and for Sis. Esther and the works you are doing all over the world.

Thanking you, Yours Brother in Christ, Paul Rathnam, Leader, Pichatur.



### Immersion in 2009

3,288 have been immersed into Christ during 2009. White Fields world wide ministries now assists 310 native evangelists in 33 different nations. These evangelists, along with our American and Australian team members, report 3,288 souls immersed into Christ for the remission of sins in January. It is a great victory and we give all praise to God. Thank God for His victory and for the souls won to Christ through the power of His gospel.



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