



Points of Interest:

- COVID in India
- Report from Sam
- Prayer

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# Staying in Touch

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Dear GHI Partners and Friends:

Greetings in the name of our Lord!

**From Mack:**

Yes, what you read and hear about India and the increasing spread of Covid-19 is very real. Sam said recently, *“death is everywhere around us, but we are trusting the Lord and using our own wisdom to stay safe.”*



In spite of this, all our 100+ staff, children and workers have remained free of the virus - praise the Lord! **And through your generosity**, we have continued to meet their salaries as if nothing had happened. It is impossible to communicate how much pressure it takes off of them to know that they can pay rent, buy food and clothes. It speaks of the generosity of those who have met the Savior and give according to the grace that has been given them.

**Here is a word direct from the campus from Sam:**

**Much sadness and danger** - Many of you have read reports of the surge in the covid cases in India, lack of medical infrastructure as well as the numerous deaths. As a community, we are taking every step possible to ensure safety.

The state government of Tamil Nadu has enforced a total lockdown every Sunday and partial lockdown during the week. With the 2<sup>nd</sup> Covid wave surge, 200,000 deaths and 3,000,000 active cases (the New York Times estimates from their sources, 40 million), we have requested our Pastors not to venture into the villages for ministry. We are taking much care to ensure that our believers, pastoral staff, faculty, campus staff, our Bible College students and children in the orphanage stay safe.

Even though rural India has not been affected as much, we are grieved for those affected. As able, we are helping some financially.

**Nationally** - A health worker in the State of Madhya Pradesh is facing police investigation after she was seen in a video that purportedly showed her going door to door and asking people to pray to Jesus Christ to stay safe amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Some alleged she was heard asking people to pray to Jesus Christ for protection from Covid and safe recovery, if infected. Please continue to pray for India.

**Good testimony about Father's Home Orphanage**

By the grace of God, the children in the orphanage are doing well. A few weeks back, our orphanage was inspected by the Commissioner of Child Rights, Government of the State of Tamil Nadu, and the new District Child Protection Officer. Among those who had inspected our home in the past 15 years, he was the highest ranked

Government official.

After their inspection, the officer wrote in the visitors' book, *"I visited Father's Home Orphanage on 5.4.21 and was immensely satisfied with the work done by the management. Special regards to Rev. J.S. Aaron John Samuel and Fay Samuel for exhibiting excellent leadership skills. Children are being taken care with all love and affection. I wish them all successes."*

We are thankful to God for his grace and for the excellent staff. None of these would have been possible if it were not for your faithful prayers and support since 2005!

### HTC students finished their finals and six graduated!

By the grace of God, we were able to complete the syllabus and conduct exams for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year students. We only have 12 online students for the 2021 academic year because of the lockdown.

**Six of our eleven "on campus students" graduated (see pix below)** and we were pleased with the way our Lord God worked in and through them.



Last week, **Banu**, one of graduating girls broke down while conveying her agony over the death of many and for the eternal state of those who had died. I was so blessed to see the burden that she had for the lost. All of those graduating want to serve the Lord in full time vocational ministry.

**That is our student Sam on the right above** receiving a Tamil NIV Study Bible given by the faculty. This past week was difficult for all of us as we said goodbye to our graduates. We pray and trust that the Lord would undertake and open effectual doors in their life

journeys. We are also saddened for the Government only allowing courses for this enrollment to be online, so pray that this will be lifted soon.

### Protecting the Campus

As you know, from last month's prayer letter, we have recently been overrun with vipers, cobras, wild boar hogs and wild dogs, foxes and wild cats coming on our campus and eating our farm animals and endangering everyone living on the campus. In fact, we see snakes almost every day on the campus. By

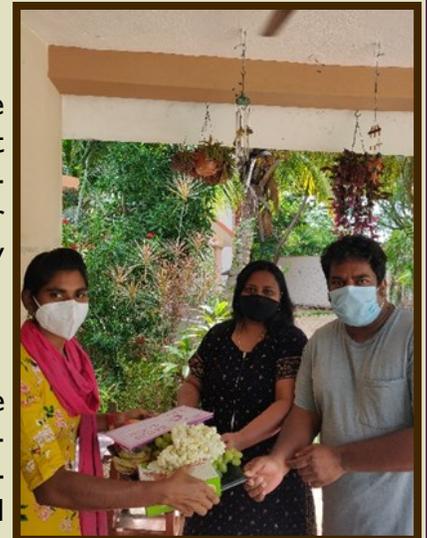
the grace of God and faithful supporters from around the world, we have begun to build the wall and fencing on the east and south side of the campus. A big thanks to all who came forward to stand with us



for this noble cause. I especially feel sorry for our masons and workers as they have toiled in the hot sun in May and June. We are also grateful that some of our pastors have volunteered to help with this project as they are unable to go into the villages. We have a wonderful team.

### **The fruit of our labors from past days**

On a brighter note, Chitra, a young girl who left our Father's Home campus in 2010, returned to invite us to her wedding. She met Christ and was born again here. She has remained in the faith and now is marrying a Christian man through her church. Pray for her as she starts her new life. Here is a picture of her presenting her wedding invitation to Fay and me.



### **Family & Studies**

By the grace of God, my wife Fay is doing well. She is a God-given huge pillar of strength for me, our kids, and the ministry! (Amelia and Aradhana doing their classes online). Aradhana continues to be a very responsible girl, Amelia loves to read her books and little Abraham Paul has begun to take semi solid foods now. We are so thankful to God for giving us a loving family.



By the grace of God, this past week, I received my graduation for my certificate on Islamic studies from the Center of Advanced Christian Studies in Bangalore. Please continue to pray for my PhD studies as I have only 4 more months to submit my thesis. Please pray that God would grant me discipline, wisdom, and strength to complete this work.

### Final note

I want to thank you once again for all your love, prayers, and support. Please continue to stand with the 100+ of us that comprise GHIndia, in the coming days.

*Sam and Fayma*



### “A MARKET OR A HOUSE OF PRAYER”

In John 2:12-16 we read the story of Jesus cleansing the temple. We often use the story as a picture of righteous anger. Righteous anger being defined as anger for another person’s right or defense – never our own. But think for a minute of one other aspect of this story. The temple of God was being used for purposes other than what it was built for.

In I Corinthians 6:19-20, Paul says, our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit, the dwelling place of Jesus, the place that represents God to those we come in contact with each day—our spouse, children, co-workers, friends, school teachers, check-out cashiers, store clerks and a vast number of others.

Jesus words in John 2:16 end with “how dare you turn my Father’s house into a market.” What was a market? In Bible times, a market was a place of noise and busyness—bargaining of buying and selling – of compromise – of good and evil.

Years ago, someone shared with me about a man who would teach his students by using imagination. He said he would take an Old Testament scene and ask his students to close their eyes and imagine they were there - to listen for what they heard and what it meant. I thought about this as I read this verse and I closed my eyes and imagined a market scene – the sounds, the smells, the language, the loudness, the sound of mocking, competition, arguing, bargaining, complaints and on and on my imagination went.

In Matt. 21:13, Jesus goes on to say, “My Father’s house is a house of prayer.” And once again I closed my eyes and imagined a house of prayer. I could sense the stillness of “Be still and know that I am God”. I could hear the soft sounds of sobbing as repentance of sin was present. I could see in my mind the picture of faith as individuals come petitioning the help of the One who has all ability. I could hear the sound of praise being lifted up to the One who is worthy. I sensed the people’s spirit reverencing and worshiping as they approached the throne of God in recognition of His power, worth, majesty and glory.

What a different scene the “market” is from the “house of prayer.” I could not help but ask myself— this body of mine that Jesus calls his temple (the residence of God – the body I call my own), is it a “market” or a “house of prayer?”

Father, quiet my spirit and let me know the joy of living in your presence moment by moment, free from the “market” of the world, in your “house of prayer.” Amen

What more can we say? We covet your prayers as we continue on the journey!

*Mack and Dottie*