



Staying in Touch

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Dear Friends and Family:

Greetings in the name of our Lord! I've been home from India for a week now as I write this, and the jetlag has been a monster as usual! So, we press on! Here I am with my Indian family on October 10!



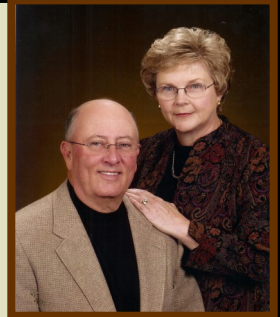
Smitty's Guitars (all custom made) and Pamela is an Internist and Oncologist. Our week was full of (5) preaching opportunities; and an outreach medical clinic headed by Dr. Pamela and Dr. Philip, a retired Administrator over three hospitals, two of our nurses on the GHIndia team, along with



another twenty volunteers (mainly the pastors and their wives).

At the end of the day, they saw nearly 160 cases with one person being sent directly to the local hospital because of high sugar levels. We have a house church in this village, and we pray that

this will open the door for more to come and check us out! Many now know of our love for them! **In addition**, Dr. Smith led a seminar on campus for our pastors and wives on managing your life for the glory of God through proper rest, eating and exercising!





In the picture to the left, we have just gathered to dedicate the front elevation to the college that was finished several months ago. We also dedicated our two new apartments for two of our lecturers.

In the picture below are Mike and Pam. They wanted to share a few words about what their time on the GHIndia campus meant to them.



From Mike and Pam:

After twenty-five years of supporting the work God is doing through GHI, my husband Mike and I had the privilege of visiting the campus that contains the outreach center that has planted 165 churches; Harvesters Theological College and Seminary; and The Father's Home Orphanage earlier this month, where we were welcomed into the home of Samuel and Fayma Sundar. (Sam and Fay), We found ourselves immersed in a warm and nurturing community where Christ's love is poured into the lives of young people. This includes the little ones, orphans who have been rescued from horrific situations of neglect and abuse, as well as young men and women who are receiving Biblical training and discipleship. Upon entering the campus, we were enveloped by the peace that is infused by Holy Spirit, whose presence is manifest and at work in the respect and love shared between all who live there. We were able to see that the children are treated with kindness and are playful and happy. The seminary students share close friendships and seem mutually supportive. There is a lot of laughter, and they make it a point to spend time having fun together. We sang and played music together, enjoyed watching funny skits and dancing, and shared many delicious meals.

The daily routine reflects a complex organization that facilitates ministry and service on many levels. All areas of the campus are busy with the tasks of the day. There is overseeing care of the children, which includes getting them to and from their various schools, helping with homework, and managing dorm activities. As well, there is the gathering of food, meal preparation, taking care of the animals, milking cows, and tending to crops that include rice paddies and fruit orchards. The seminary classes are held on campus, and they have recently completed construction of newly equipped apartments to house seminary faculty. There is a chapel on campus where they meet regularly for worship and singing. Fay's kitchen is a hive of activity and community amongst several young women. There is a weekly all-inclusive meal that starts with Fay teaching students how to cook by letting them help her prepare the meal and culminates in Sam personally serving food to every single child, student, and campus staff member. Everyone, including the grounds keepers, cooking staff and guard, are respected and treated like family.

As part of our visit, we also went out into the community to present the gospel to kids in several schools and provided medical care in a local village. We accomplished a great deal on these days because everything was so well organized from seminary students who presented skits and manned the sound equipment, to an efficient medical team organized by a nurse who is the wife of one of the pastors.

Sam and Fay are incredible people who I found to be spiritually wise, socially enlightened, and highly accomplished. They are both excellent communicators, able to speak well both in person and in public, shifting effortlessly between their native Tamil and perfect English dialects. They very capably manage a multitude of difficult situations that are inherent to rescuing and then caring for troubled and harassed children. They have chosen to forcefully reject the traditional Indian caste system, and actively teach this to their own daughters as well as orphans and students. Additionally, they strongly advocate for women, and stand against a system that unfortunately, even within the established Christian hierarchy in India, seeks to hold them in servitude to men instead of Christ. Sam and Fay balance their time between the many campus responsibilities, caring for their children, ministering and loving on the orphans and students, and are still both actively studying for advanced degrees. Please pray for their continued strength and opportunities to rest.

We are honored to be a part of this missionary effort. We find that Christ is using GHI's organization in India to raise disciples who will further His work amongst these beautiful people, to free them from bondage and lovingly enfold them into His kingdom.

Dr. Pamela and Michael Smith

Here's a word from Sam:

Elijah thought that he was the only one there to serve Yahweh, but God told him that he had reserved about 700 people who have not bowed down to the Baal. The New Testament church would have thought that only the Apostles and Paul were on fire for the Lord, but God was at work in the life of Apollos as well as Barnabas, Timothy and Titus. In a day and age where pluralism, secularism, relativism and extremism seem to threaten us, we do not need to be alarmed. Our Lord God is still on the throne. Let us not forget the parable concerning the kingdom of God. The mustard seed will become a big tree and small yeast can work through the entire dough. The Lord Jesus said that the gates of hell will not prevail against the church of the Lord. God in his infinite grace has been working in the lives of many people in and around the Ponnai area. Here is a short update of God's gracious work.

What prevents me from being baptized?

Three weeks back, I went to one of our branch churches. After the service a young girl, 'Divya' came up to me and said, 'Uncle, I want you to baptize me next week'. Divya comes from an orthodox high caste Hindu home. Her father is a believer, but she was pulled away by her relatives from the Lord. So, I asked her why she wanted me to baptize her. She replied that during one of our recent youth meeting, she gave her life to the Lord. I don't remember my sermon, but she remembers it. Praise the Lord! Two weeks back, we baptized her and conducted Bible study in her home last week. Hallelujah. God is at Work! Please pray that Divya would grow in the Lord.

A real change of direction

Last week, we had a church retreat at one of our churches. Many new faces had come to the church. Fayma led the worship and I preached the Gospel. I spoke on "Why Do we need God?" The Samaritan had the well and the water to drink. All her physical needs were met, but, she did not have the living

water. She was empty on the inside. After I gave the altar call, many trusted Christ to the Glory of God. Last week, I got a phone call from one of our missionaries. A middle-aged man from a Hindu background was so overwhelmed with the love of God during worship that he wanted to cry aloud. He told our missionary, "After I heard the sermon, I trusted Christ and I decided to give up the work of taking care of the Hindu Temple. I had given over 1 million rupees towards it, but now, I do not want to have anything to do with this temple." Praise the Lord! God is at work. The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation.

Raising up Disciples for the Lord

I am very happy with our faculty in our Bible College. During the faculty meeting, we felt that we should involve the parents and the pastors in the life of the students. Last month God enabled us to organize a parent's teachers meeting. During chapel service, I encouraged the parents to take care of their children like Hannah took care of Samuel. Later in the day, we split the entire student body into seven groups. Each student picked up their favorite course and taught their parents and teachers for five minutes. The parents were very impressed with the performance of the students. Many parents were in tears and could not believe how much the kids have learned and their boldness to teach. Each of our faculty said a few words of encouragement to the students.

The college students organized a day to thank the teachers. They spoke about the impact the college had on them and how each faculty had played a role in their life. They had some cultural programs and organized a quiz from the Bible. It was their turn to question us. We won lot of prizes (I won the most! Being the Principal, I had to prove that I knew the Bible more than my colleaguesjust kidding). It was great fun. Last week, our Prof. John Santharaj (other faculty also joined too) led the entire college and our missionaries in prayer, solitude, reflection, confession and supplication for half a day. We thank God for this great spiritual renewal.

Several years ago, one of our long-time supporters made it possible for several of our orphans to go on to higher education. One of the five, Priyadarshini just graduated with a degree in Catering and Hotel Management and is now the Campus Hostess. In just a few months, she alone has raised the food and cooking standards to new heights! In closing, thanks a lot for all that you do for the sake of the ministry here. You work long hours and make huge sacrifices to support the work of the Lord. Please be assured that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. Only eternity will tell us, how much of an impact you have been. Thanks for your prayers.

[Sam](#)



May I speak to you?

Many of you, who read this from month to month, put it down thinking, someone else will be supporting them, so why should I? The truth is, someone has been, but far too many are **church members** who have passed away! The word "church" is the Greek word, *ecclesia*, "those called out ones." It is those called out to spread the Gospel! GHI has been the church in action for nearly 42 years! We have planted approximately 450+ churches across the world since 1990. Through the years, we have reproduced ourselves repeatedly – over 100-fold! So, prayerfully consider being a part of this work. No gift is too small to help us maintain our work abroad (110+ missionaries). Just ask God if you have His permission to give to an existing mission work where western missionaries are banned! I bet He will say, read the Book! **"Go ye therefore into all the world..."** Our hearts are grateful for your prayers and partnership with us.

[Mack and Dottie](#)