



Points of Interest:

- **COVID-19 Response**
- **India Campus News**

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Staying in Touch

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Dear GHI Friends:

Greetings to you from our reigning Lord! We are praying for all of you in these difficult times. Here is our brief report from Sam. Thank you for investing in Missions in India. You are loved. (Phil 1:3-6)

Mack and Dottie

Our response to the Covid-19 out break:

The Indian government has placed the entire country on lockdown from March 25th to April 15th. By the grace of God, we were proactive. We encouraged our Pastors not to venture into the villages from the 11th of March. As per the recommendation of the government and our College Accreditation Body, we sent our college students to their respective homes and we are closely guarding the safety and health of our children in The Father's Home.



However, we requested our campus staff like the cooks, shepherd, janitor and drivers to bring their families and stay along with us on the campus. This morning, I requested one of our Pastors to get special permission from the local police station to collect the salaries from me and distribute to the Pastors in their homes. Thank God for this permission. We continue to make calls to all our GHI students and families to check on their safety and well-being. Our Pastors are also making calls to the believers to encourage and pray for them.

Reflection of how to respond spiritually in these times:

Last week, I read a post in FB from an Atheist in India. He questioned the logic of donating 16 billion dollars to the Church last year as they remain closed now, while Hospitals remains open. These are days when the existence of God, the goodness of God, the love of God, the power of God and the purpose of God are all being questioned.

The age-old question of the problem of Evil has resurfaced again. The skeptics assert that God does not exist because there is so much evil in this world. Even if one were to grant the possibility of God's existence, this God is neither loving nor powerful. He is not loving because he does not care for those who suffer and even if he is loving, he is not all powerful as he does not stop the Evil.

World religions have attempted to answer this question. For the Hindu, like Sankara, the famous Hindu Philosopher, Evil is just Maya (illusion). There is nothing such as evil and there is nothing such as good, everything depends on one's own perception of it. For the Muslim, everything is Inshallah (Allah's will). In fact, recently, I heard a Muslim imam preach that "The coronavirus is Satan unleashed by Allah to destroy the non-Muslims". For the Buddhist, the root cause for evil is desire. Once we cease to have desire, then there would be no Evil. This is self-defeating logically as one needs to have a desire in order not to desire!

However, for the Christian, evil is very much real. It is a result of the fall (Gen 3, Romans 8). God weeps over Evil (John 11), but offers hope and intervenes (Exod. 3) in the present and offers hope for the future (Rev. 21). In the Bible, Job, Joseph, Daniel, Lazarus and Paul did not know what was going on in their lives, but God knew it well. Many like Goliath, Pharaoh, Sennacherib and the false prophets have challenged the existence and the power of the Lord, but our God has always triumphed. Thus, we can take comfort in the fact that our God is good, loving, just and sovereign. Everything is in His control and nothing takes Him by surprise. We can always lean on the unchanging character of God.

Getaway with our college students and faculty prior to the lockdown:

A few weeks before the lockdown, we had a short getaway with our students and faculty to Mysore in Karnataka (235 miles). We were just amazed by the beauty of the birds, surprised to see the crocodiles, refreshed by playing in the waterfall, taken aback by the grandeur of the Mysore Maharaja Palace and the architect of the Muslim king Tipu Sultan. We enjoyed the beauty of God's creation and the creative minds and skills that God had given human beings.



As we concluded our trip, while visiting the grand tomb that Tipu Sultan had built for his parents, the tour guide made great boast about the feats of Tipu Sultan. Even Tipu Sultan was laid to rest in the same tomb. I had a strange thought, if the tour guide can speak and brag about a dead king, how much more should we speak about our risen Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. By the grace of God, we returned back late in the night, but safely.

Birthday of our precious girls:

We have made it a tradition to buy new clothes, get sweets to be distributed and have a cake cutting ceremony for all the children in the orphanage. This month was special as we celebrated the birth of S_____ and I_____. Both of these girls were born on the same day to different sets of parents, but had a similar horrific story as they became teenagers. One was abused by her stepdad and the other was married off to an older man.

God used The Father's Home Orphanage to rescue, shelter, care, love and provide for them. They have both grown to trust the Lord and are very happy. Words can't express how grateful we are for the impact you have been having on their lives.



Annual Day Program and College graduation:

I was privileged to attend the annual day program of our children at school. I was amazed at their talent. I was excited to hear the English play and see the dance moves. They made us proud.

On the next day, I was able to attend the graduation ceremony of another child who grew up in our home for the past 15 years. She came to our orphanage when she was in her 2nd grade. We put her through her school and a Bachelor's of Science in Zoology. We also helped her to enroll in her Masters in Science program. Now, her own sister whom we supported to be a medical nurse is supporting her studies. It was truly a



joy. We hope that we will be able to attend the graduation ceremonies of all our little ones someday. Once again, a big thanks for making a huge impact in the life of these precious ones.

Women's Day Celebration Meetings:

By the grace of God, our Women's Board organized women's meetings in our main church, with 120 women attending. The Gospel was shared and many trusted Christ. The Word of God was brought by Mrs. Latha Joseph and Mrs. Fay Samuel. Mrs. Kala, being from the Hindu background, shared the Gospel through her testimony. She was well received as most of the



women who attended were from a Hindu background. Mrs. Fay Samuel spoke about Mary as a virgin, a young mother, a widow and as a model of a wonderful disciple of our Lord. Her role-play of bringing in women of different age groups was captivating. The missionaries and the Pastor's wives also gave many tips on health, hygiene, beauty tips, cooking tips, savings etc. The Lord used all our women for His glory.

The campus continues to be a place of refuge:

Last week, a 23 year old pregnant women was beaten black and blue by her drunk husband. She was thrown out of the house as the husband was having adulterous relationships with their landlord and her daughter. He wanted to get rid of her as he wanted to marry the landlord's daughter. She had to walk for about 3 kilometers on a lonely road until someone gave her a lift to our campus. She had not eaten since breakfast the day before. We took her in the name of the Lord and gave her food to eat. She broke down in tears saying that no one loved or wanted her. We later learned that she was orphaned too. We are taking good care of her. We have shared the Gospel and shown her the love of God. There is still hope for the unwanted and unloved. Thanks a lot for all of you who have enabled us to show forth God's



love. We are in touch with a few elders in her village and hope to reach out to her husband for reconciliation. Meanwhile, she is very happy and well fed here.



Just a thought before I close. Let us not be anxious about this lockdown because even Apostle Paul was under lockup in prison for two years in Caesarea. During his time in prison, he used his time wisely for the glory of God.

Once again, a big thanks to all of you for praying, encouraging, supporting and partnering with us. We request you to continue to stand with us in the days ahead. Please also pray for my family. (pictured on the left as we study together.) He is Risen, yes! He is risen indeed!

With love, your brother,

Sam