

## **THERE IS NEVER A MOMENT WHERE MAN CANNOT SERVE! (Mahatma Gandhi)**

Slogans like the one above greet you on big banners as soon as you set your foot on Indian soil. I wondered, does it have an influence on the people living there? The atmosphere immediately captivated me. It seemed to be such a busy beehive.... people, people everywhere. Even a city like Chennai, a 15 Mill. coastal metropolitan, hot and humid, amazes you with its considerations shown in the traffic flow, in the funny ways of the Riksha drivers and the elegant Ladies on their Mopeds with their colourful flowing saris, balancing fearlessly between huge busses and never ending car jams. I was invited to participate as a delegate at a conference in Hyderabad and therefore we took the opportunity to also have some seminars on the way.

The warm welcome of the Christians helped us to feel free and open to share at their eagerly anticipated seminar and other related events. We stayed with an Indian family from Hindu-Background. What a new world opened up to us, as we listened to their life stories.

On the other hand we were taken by surprise by their great interest in our literature, and learning soon, because Muslims are also a minority on their continent and rub shoulders with Christians daily, like in sub-Saharan Africa, our strategy seemed to be very similar to the mission groups there. With the opportunity of travelling with CD's, material could be copied and made available so much easier than ever before.

A few months ago we got a copy of "*Learn & Share India*", following our model of the Learn & Share training and correspondence course, each bulletin adapted to their own context. Praise the Lord for such initiatives.

Before we reached India we were asked to stop in Sri Lanka, where the Nazarene church had about 20 pastors and delegates waiting from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka to be trained in M.E. Sri Lanka seems to be a great Island for Holidays with its warm sunny climate, its never ending marvellous beaches and leisure places and the astonishing buildings of temples and Mosques. (I wonder how they all look after the horrible Tsunami on the 26<sup>th</sup> of Dec.) But entering a Buddha temple was a different story for us as Christians. Just to see all the many Buddha statues in great varieties and sizes, watching esp. women and girls kneeling, praying and offering fruits to these Gods (some in true desperation)... It grieved our hearts so much, and for the first time I truly understood how troubled Paul must have been in Athens, watching the Idolatry of that town.

It was a good introduction and stimulation for me to be even more passionate while teaching in the following seminar about our living God and how to make Him known. In those 8 days we taught not only the Basic seminar, but included also a TOT (Training of Trainers) for these 'handpicked' delegates.

The five Bangladeshi participants got so excited about all they learned, that they started to teach their own people as soon as they arrived home. And not without result: only four month later they could baptise already 18 Ex-Muslims and six months later, 30 converts were gathering in a small church.

We praise God for such multiplication and implementation of the little they had learned in the few days in Sri Lanka... It reminds me of the feeding of the five thousand. They had only 5 bread and 2 fishes, but the Lord multiplied it and all could be fed. The question is: Are we willing to serve others with what we have learned?

Remember: "**There is never a moment in life where man cannot serve...**" and you will be surprised how God will use a single moment for His glory!